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Issue 75 - July 2012  
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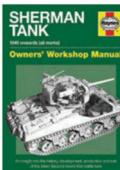
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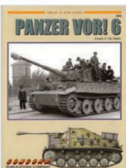
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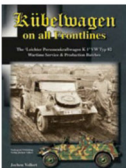
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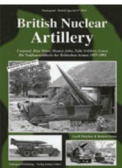
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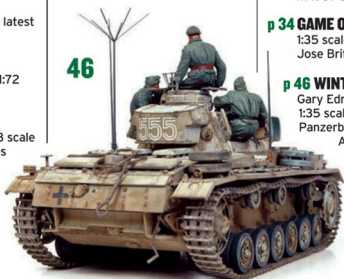
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## TAMIYA ANNOUNCES NEW 1:35 ELEFANT AND 1:48 MATILDA

**A**s part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, Tamiya has announced an all-new 1:35 scale German Heavy Tank Destroyer Elefant, due for release in July.

In 1943, the unsuccessful Porsche competitor to the Tiger tank was transformed into the Ferdinand tank destroyer, armed with an 8.8 cm PaK 43 L/71 gun housed in a large box-shaped superstructure. 90 were produced.

During the Battle of Kursk, the powerful gun proved capable of knocking out T-34 and KV-1 tanks at long range, but their slow speed and unreliability resulted in many being immobilised by mechanical troubles.

In 1944, 50 surviving Ferdinands were upgraded with the addition of a machine gun, a Commander's cupola and more. These were re-designated with the name Elefant.

These Elefants saw in combat on the Italian and Russian fronts, and some fought until the very end of WWII during the Battle of Berlin.

The kit designers visited the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum Foundation in order to measure and study an actual example. This new model will feature a one-piece superstructure, link and length tracks, and three crew figures - a Commander, loader and driver.

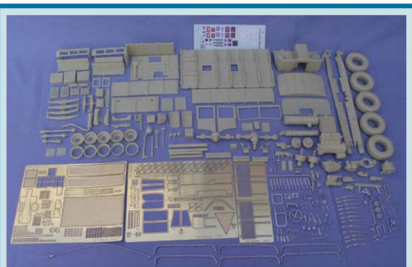
Also due for release in July is Tamiya's newest addition to their 1:48 scale military vehicle series, a Matilda Mk.III/IV, British Infantry Tank Mk.IIIA\*

The Matilda was developed as a heavily armored infantry tank and was one of the British Army's main tanks in North Africa during WWII. The Matilda swept aside opposing Italian tanks and was respectfully called the "Queen of the Desert" by German forces. During Operation Battleaxe to lift the siege of Tobruk in June 1941,

German forces famously used their 88mm AA guns in the anti-tank role as they were the only effective counter against Matildas.

Tamiya's 1:48 scale Matilda will feature link and length tracks, optional metal body weights, markings for three vehicles and a Commander figure.

We will have more news of these releases in a future issue of Model Military International magazine.



## KIT FORM SERVICES 1:24 SCALE MATADOR

Kit Form Services has released a 1:24 scale Matador truck.

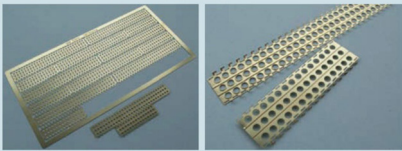
This monster of a kit contains some 120 parts in high quality polyurethane resin, 114 in cast white metal & a full A4 sheet size of 295 parts in etched brass. Glazing, various plastic strip & sheet plus brass rods & of course, full pictorial instructions are also included.

The decal set includes markings for two artillery units in the post D-Day European theatre and a third set for the North African campaign.

Features include a fully detailed cab & chassis, with all the handbrake & winch control tie rods and levers, a complete engine (even though very little of it is seen after assembly), working steering, complete artillery body with canopy, crew seating, pioneer tools etc, 12 x No4 Lee Enfield rifles, wire mesh radiator grill, and rear lights for post war and civilian use.

KFS has also just released a set of brass photo-etched interlocking PSP matting. These are fully detailed on both sides, making it ideal not only for diorama bases and vehicles, field workshops etc, but also for use stowed on 1:24 scale vehicles where both sides could be visible (for example, PSP was often carried on Ferret for use as makeshift sand channels). The set comprises of 9 strips @ 128mm (5") & 6 end strips @ 64mm (2.5") The set assembles to a rectangle of 256mm x 102mm (10" x 4")

More information on both these new releases may be found on Kit Form Services' website [www.kitformservices.com](http://www.kitformservices.com)



## ALPINE MINIATURES NEW RELEASES

Alpine Miniatures released four new sets in April 2012:

- 35136 Panzer Officer 1 Pz. Div. #1 (1:35) - MSRP \$18.00 USD
- 35137 Panzer Officer 1 Pz. Div. #2 (1:35) - MSRP \$18.00 USD
- 35138 Panzer Officer 1 Pz. Div. 2 figures (1:35) - MSRP \$34.00 USD
- 16016 Totenkopf Grenadier (1:16) - MSRP \$55.00 USD

For more info and images, check out Alpine's website [www.alpineminatures.com](http://www.alpineminatures.com)



Thanks to Tamiya for the information and images

[www.tamiya.com](http://www.tamiya.com)

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)





Actual model detail



Actual model detail



Actual model detail

03093 1:35 GTK Boxer (GTFz)



# Heavyweight Hero

1:35 GTK Boxer (GTFz)

03093

When the situation on the battlefield demands stealth, mobility, optimal protection and high performance the GTK Boxer Motorised Armoured Transport is the best solution in its class. It's modular construction enables it to carry eight fully equipped infantrymen into action, while the FLW 200 weapons platform, fitted with either a 12.7mm machine gun or a 40mm multiple grenade launcher provides effective defensive armament.

Replacing the 'Fuchs' and 'M113' armoured transports, the Boxer began service with the German Bundeswehr in 2009 and the Dutch armed forces in 2011.

This highly detailed model kit replicates the 2011 production unit with separate driving and mission modules. It can be fitted with a choice

of weapon systems and the detailed driving position is visible through a moveable hatch.

## Model-details:

- Finely engraved surface detail
- Authentic chassis
- Modular construction faithful to the original
- FLW 200 with a choice of either MG or 40 mm grenade launcher
- Accurate smoke discharge unit
- Rubber tyres
- Detailed driving position with moveable hatch
- Authentic decals for 4 vehicle variants

For more details on this brand new 1:35 scale model kit as well as the complete range of Revell products check out our International website at [www.revell.eu](http://www.revell.eu)

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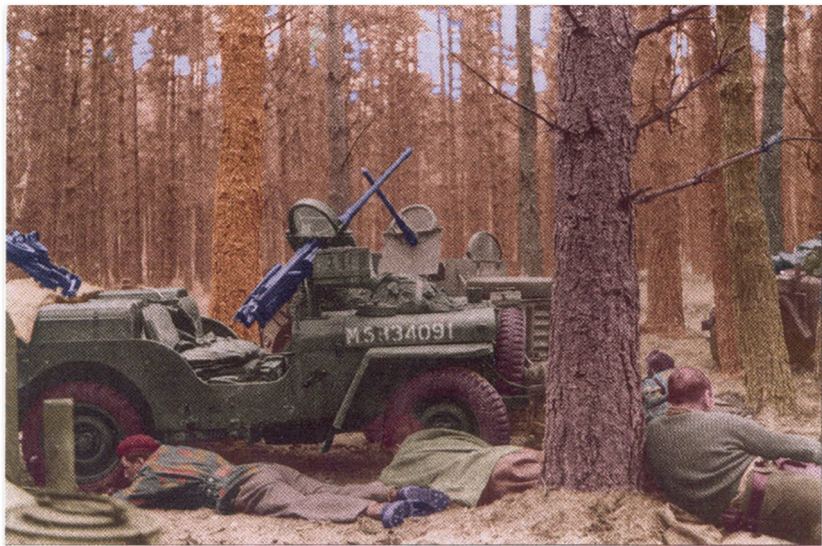
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**Build Your Dream!**



**Under Fire:** An SAS patrol goes to ground during an enemy artillery barrage. Note the Browning M2 HB machine guns mounted on the jeeps. Due to the arrangement of the front shield, these heavy American machine guns must be fed from the right hand side instead of the normal left hand side. This required the use of an adapter kit or in some cases a little battle-fied ingenuity. The officer leaning against the tree with his back to the camera is Paddy Mayne.

## REBIRTH OF A LEGEND: THE SAS IN NORTHWEST EUROPE

Tobias Gibson covers the service of the British Special Air Service in North West Europe and their unique adaptation of the Jeep.

**B**y the end of the desert war, the Special Air Service (SAS) had achieved regimental strength. The SAS had proved its worth time and again, despite the short-sightedness of many high ranking staff officers. But as the desert campaign came to a close, the SAS became a unit in search of a mission. The founder of the unit, Col. David Stirling, had been captured on what was to be his last desert raid and the SAS doubters were quick to point out that a war in Italy would not allow for an SAS type unit. With its commander absent, officers unfamiliar with the SAS quickly started coming up with new ideas for these elite soldiers.

Most critics of the SAS felt they would be better employed as a Commando. Currently 2nd Bn. SAS was training in England and did not figure directly into this equation. However, 1st Bn. SAS, which was comprised of the original members of "L" Detachment, was in the Middle East. Plans were put forward by Combined Operations to either break up the unit to fill the ranks of newly formed Commandos or bring the unit up to strength with new Commando recruits. There is little doubt that this would have happened if it were not for the superior leadership abilities of the newly appointed commander of 1st Bn. SAS.

Lt Col Blair "Paddy" Mayne

had been Stirling's 2IC from the inception of the unit. He had served with Layforce as part of 11 (Scottish) Commando during the Litani River raid and had proven to be an excellent patrol commander. Layforce was to be disbanded after the raid and, for this reason, Mayne volunteered for service in the Far East. Stirling had also been part of Layforce, but with 8 Commando. On recommendation from Col. Laycock, Commander of Layforce, Stirling chose Mayne for his 2IC. Contrary to the legend, Mayne was recovering from malaria at the time and not under house arrest. After hearing Stirling's vision for a light raiding force, Mayne withdrew his request for transfer and joined

what would become the SAS. By the end of the desert raids, he was credited with destroying more aircraft than any other member of the unit and had earned the first of his 4 DSOs. Mayne's newest task was to preserve the unit that Stirling envisioned.

### SAS OR COMMANDO

Mayne knew the strengths and weaknesses of a Commando and he also knew what differentiated the SAS from a Commando. Higher ranking officers were oblivious to these differences. Commandos were designed to raid in force and possibly hold ground for short periods of time, often as part of larger operation. Typically these

were amphibious operations and the units relied on naval gun support. Commandos did not deploy deep behind enemy lines and they rarely worked in groups smaller than thirty or forty men. The idea of a four man Commando team attacking an airfield was not within their mindset or training. The role of Commandos and that of the SAS were, in practice, quite different.

Mayne remembered the tenets of the SAS as first developed by Stirling:

- The basic operational force of the SAS should be a four man team that could combine with other teams as the mission dictated.
- The SAS must be able to be inserted by air, sea or land and be prepared to operate in uniform deep behind enemy lines.
- The SAS should be able to work with resistance forces or form a resistance force with the local population.
- Most importantly, the small groups must be self-contained and capable of remaining behind enemy lines for long periods of time.

Enormous pressure was placed on Mayne to convert the SAS to a Commando. Combined Operations was correct in assuming that there was no specific role in Sicily or Italy for the SAS to operate as originally conceived or as they had operated in the desert. As such a concession was made and 1st Bn. became the Special Raiding Squadron or SRS. During the Squadron's deployment in Sicily and Italy, it performed four amphibious landings and distinguished itself on every occasion. Because the SRS had performed so well, the unit was able to keep its identity and with the upcoming assault on Fortress Europe, a role as first envisioned by Stirling, came to light. Mayne perseverance had paid off: the SRS once again became 1 SAS and was to prepare for motorized warfare deep behind enemy lines.

In 1944, The SAS reached Brigade status and was placed under the command of Brig. Roderick Macleod. The new brigade was composed of six battalions or squadrons and a Headquarters company:

- 1 SAS (British and Commonwealth) often referred to as the Originals.
- 2 SAS (British and Commonwealth)
- 3 SAS (France), also known as 2e régiment de chasseurs parachutistes (RCP)

- 4 SAS (France), also known as 3e RCP
- 5 SAS (Belgium), also known as the Independent Belgian Squadron.
- Phantom Squadron.
- Headquarters Coy.

The first five squadrons were fighting squadrons. The Phantom Squadron had a signals company and a reconnaissance company and was primarily involved with intelligence gathering in France. The Headquarters Company was responsible for logistics and coordinating the unit's actions.

As a Brigade, the unit needed an official home within the hierarchy of the British Army. It was quickly decided the new brigade should be placed under Air Force Command and was attached to the British 1st Airborne Division. This move ensured a more reliable access to air transportation which had proven to be a problem in the early days of the desert. The unit was allowed to retain its distinctive cap badge and wings but for uniformity sake, 1 SAS Brigade was instructed to adopt the red beret of all airborne forces. This regulation was promptly and always ignored ▶



On parade in Norway, Paddy Mayne and his driver wait on the sidelines while pipers lead a formation of soldiers past a hanger. Unlike the Jeeps on patrol, this particular jeep clearly displays the winged dagger crest of the SAS on the armoured plate. Barely visible is the empty cargo-bin mounted on the rear of the gun-jeep. While his driver wears the regulation red beret, Mayne sports the sand coloured beret of "The Originals."



On Patrol: Pictured is a combat laden SAS gun jeep on patrol somewhere in Northern France. Note the armoured louvers for the grill. This particular jeep lacks the auxiliary fuel tanks on the rear fenders. The cargo bin on the back of the jeep is just visible in the photograph. The men are wearing the standardised red beret issued to all British airborne forces in North West Europe.



# Think Tank - The SAS in Northwest Europe



**Operation Bulbasket:** An unarmoured gun-jeep of B Sqdn, I SAS during the opening days of the ill-fated Operation Bulbasket. Operation Bulbasket was an SAS operation which was launched on D-Day, as part of the overall Invasion of Occupied France. Some source claim initial patrols were sent in with just pistols, however this was a misinterpretation of action reports. Clearly visible is an M1 Carbine behind the passenger seat.

by Mayne, who continued to wear the sand coloured beret of the desert years. Mayne instructed all members of 1 SAS that the red beret was to be worn on parade in England but upon deployment the red beret should be carefully stored in the rucksack and the squadron should wear their "proper regimental headgear [tan berets] as they had done in past campaigns."

## MOBILITY AND FIREPOWER

While 1 SAS held fast to its traditional beret, the other battalions adopted the red beret of the Parachute Regiments. Along with this red beret came reliable air support that would prove invaluable in future operations in France. A primary mission of the

SAS in France was to organize the French Underground into a cohesive fighting unit. This proved difficult at times due to the political ambitions of different resistance groups. On many occasions resistance groups would refuse to attack for fear of reprisal or fear of being caught. SAS teams were also compromised on a few occasions by Nazi collaborators.

For the most part, however, the SAS inspired a new level of confidence in resistance groups. Part of this confidence can be attributed to the SAS gun-jeeps. Many doubters felt it would be impossible to operate the Jeeps behind the lines in occupied Europe; however the SAS believed the Jeeps were essential for ease of movement and needed

firepower. It was the gun-jeeps and their fire power that often played a pivotal role in convincing resistance groups to assist the SAS in their missions. These missions included heavily guarded targets such as railway stations, fuel dumps and communication centres. The SAS also searched for targets suitable for bomber command and on occasion searched for downed air crew.

## JEOP MODIFICATIONS

Several lessons were learned in the desert war and this led to major modifications to the trustworthy desert Jeeps. Remarkably, many of the desert Jeeps remained serviceable and with a new coat of paint and other modifications would continue to serve the SAS

until the end of hostilities. These desert Jeeps no longer had the radiator condenser or sand channels. The numerous Jerry cans and spare tires were also gone. These modifications were no longer as crucial in North West Europe where re-supplying would be an easier task. What remained were the formidable twin mounted VGO (Vickers K) machine guns and the familiar cut out grill.

As the gun-jeeps evolved they became more standardised. What started off as special tool of the SAS were now being used by Airborne Reconnaissance Companies of the Parachute Regiments. One improvement from the desert raids was the addition of traversing and elevation mechanism (T&E) to the gun mounts. The T&E device provided stability to the gun mounts and made it easier to lock the guns in place when moving. It also allowed the guns to be locked in a stationary firing position ensuring that the guns will fire at a precise elevation and specific direction during raids or ambush. At the same time, with a simple lever flip, the T&E mechanism is disengaged and the gun could swing freely in any direction or elevation. The T&E, however, was more common on Airborne Jeeps and less frequently seen within the SAS brigade.

The Jeeps tended to have three machine gun mounting points. The first was in front of the passenger seat, the second was in the centre of the back wall (the rear seat had been removed) and finally just behind the driver's side front fender. A Bren gun was usually mounted by the driver. The other two mounts carried a pair of K-guns. One out of every three Jeeps mounted an M2 HB .50 machine gun. These replaced the front mounted twin K-guns and proved more reliable than the old air patterned machine guns of the desert days.

## SAS JEEP EVOLUTION

As the Jeep continued to evolve, self-sealing fuel tanks were mounted above the rear tires. A Mk. 19 radio set (when carried) was normally mounted in the back of the Jeep as well. Experience during the desert raids proved a need for better frontal armour and this led to armour protection for the front guns. The result was steel shield that protected the driver and front gunner. The shield included fold down aviator windscreens made of 'bullet proof' glass. In reality the shield offered protection from shell fragments and possibly small calibre rounds. Larger calibre

rifle and machine gun rounds could penetrate from moderate distances. In some instances, the shield had a mounting for a small search light. The gun shield meant that M2HB machine guns had to be converted to right hand feeding.

Because most SAS Jeeps operated without trailers, many of the Jeeps had storage bins made from steel tubing mounted on the back. This bin was deep enough to carry jerry cans and ran the entire width of the Jeep. This allowed the crew to store personal and mission essential equipment more securely and allowed more freedom of movement for the tail gunner. Other modifications included cutting off the ends of the front bumpers to prevent them from being pushed against the front tires and snagging on underbrush. Support rods were added from the bumper to the fenders for the same reason. In the final form, the Jeeps had steel louvers similar to those found on White half-tracks. These were mounted between the radiator and the grills. The louvers could be opened to prevent overheating and closed to protect the vulnerable radiator from shell fragments.

The evolution of the SAS Jeep was not done in a vacuum. In the beginning, the SAS used lessons learned from the LRDG to develop an efficient mobile platform for launching desert raids. They used this experience to develop the new armoured Jeeps. The first of these Jeeps were deployed shortly after the D-Day landings and proved very successful. Additional Jeeps were requested after the initial success but unfortunately demand outstripped supply. On at least one occasion, the SAS operated a major mission (the Haggard patrol) with unarmoured Jeeps. In some other missions the self-sealing fuel tanks were not fitted to the armoured Jeeps.

As mentioned the Airborne Reconnaissance Companies of the Parachute Regiments also adopted the armoured Jeep. However, an SAS Jeep is normally easy to spot in photographs. The usual give away is the cut-away desert grill or the rear storage bin. The Airborne Recce Jeeps never had a cut away grill and rarely had storage bins. Front mounted M2 machine guns were also more frequently used by the SAS.

Parachute Regiments normally delivered their gun-jeeps using American Made WACO CG-4A combat assault gliders. This was not a practical means of delivery for the SAS.

The SAS Jeeps were normally air dropped or simply driven

through enemy lines. Most of the time the SAS relied on airdrops for re-supply of food and ammunition. Drops were almost always done at night. The SAS used the short range S-Phone Type 13 Mk. IV UHF radio-telephone transmitter for communicating with aircrafts. This was a clandestine short range directional radio also used by the Special Operations Executive or SOE. On some occasions the unit also prepared airfields for delivery and extraction of important or wounded personnel. These aerial re-supplies were often done by No. 161 Special Duties Squadrons. Depending on the scope of the re-supply, Westland Lysander Mk.IIIA, Lockheed Hudson light bombers and C-47 Dakotas were normally used for these operations.

#### SAS UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS

When it came to uniforms, the SAS was adamant that they would always operate in the standard Battle Dress or the Denison smock of the airborne forces. They refused to engage in operations wearing civilian clothing or the

uniform of enemy combatants. They left these types of operations to the SOE. However the unit sometimes used civilian means of transportation such as bikes or the French Citroën automobile (The Citroën was often used by German officers as a staff car). These types of transportation allowed the unit to move more freely through the French towns and countryside even when in British uniform.

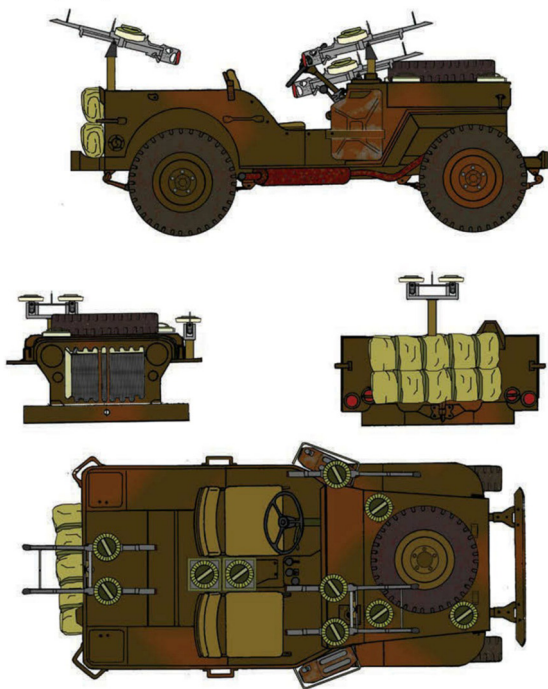
As for personal weapons, it is rumoured that the SAS first deployed in Northwest Europe armed only with pistols but this is probably incorrect. Photographs and personal accounts suggest the troopers retained their Tommy guns and MP40s when they left the desert but typically traded their SMLEs for the American M1 Carbine. This semi-automatic rifle with a 15 round detachable magazine, proved an ideal compromise for the SAS; giving a higher rate of fire at almost half the weight. The Browning HP35 9mm pistol was now standard issue to airborne forces and commandos and these proved

popular in the SAS but revolvers and the Colt M1911a1 also remained in use with the men as well. A popular knife among the SAS was the American M3 Fighting knife. The Sten was normally avoided by the SAS; although these were supplied in great numbers to the French Resistance and inevitably found use.

Beside their machine guns, the Jeeps normally carried an OML 2 inch mortar. 3 inch Mortars were also routinely used. The Projectile Infantry Anti-Tank (PIAT) was used when the situation required it; however, the American made M1A1 2.36in Rocket Launcher (Bazooka) was more popular and was used when the back blast was acceptable. At least on one occasion, an SAS patrol used a QF 6 Pounder AT gun but this proved more difficult to transport than the Bazooka or PIAT.

#### COLOURS AND MARKINGS

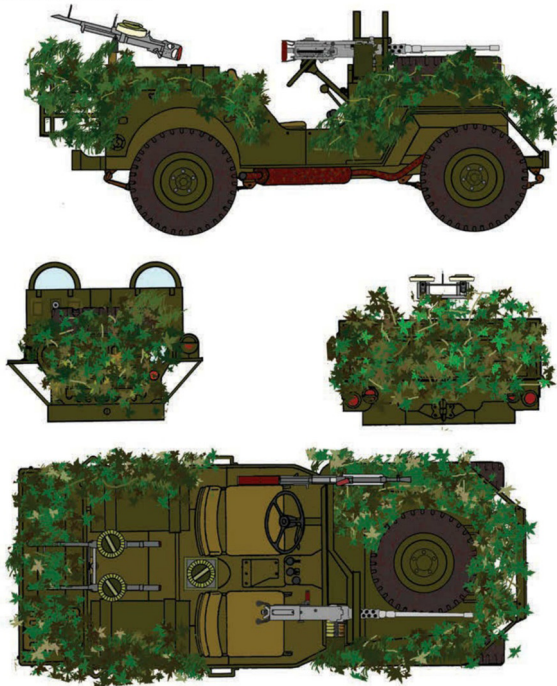
Most photographic suggest the SAS Jeeps were painted in basic Khaki Drab. If they were camouflaged they would have used



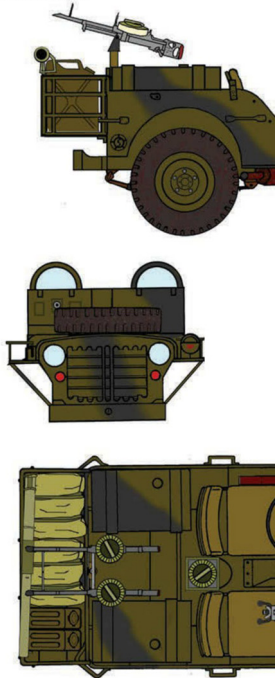


# Think Tank - The SAS in Northwest Europe

Foliage Used as Improvised Camouflage



Disruptive Camouflage



either the basic disruptive pattern or the Mickey Mouse pattern. The disruptive pattern would have used Dark Stone or Charcoal Black over the base colour of Khaki Drab. The Mickey Mouse pattern would have used Charcoal Black over the Khaki Drab. Most often, however the SAS camouflaged their vehicles by adopting the German practice of attaching local foliage to their Jeeps. This was done not only to assist in the concealment of the vehicles but also to fool Germans into believing the Jeeps were German vehicles. There are several documented reports of SAS jeeps covered in bushes driving into occupied French towns and being mistaken by the Germans as friendly vehicles. In some case the SAS passed through safely while at other times it allowed them to pull off punishing attacks.

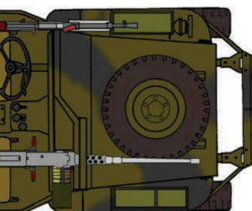
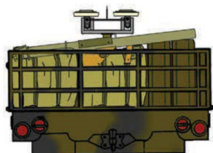
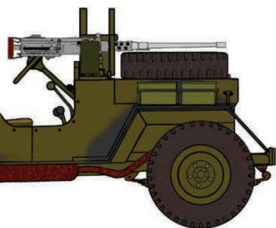
Winter camouflage was normally

done with white wash (diluted plaster of Paris). Normally the white wash was applied to all external surfaces of the vehicle but the nature of white washing allowed for quick weathering. This resulted in a blotchy coating of white over the base colours of the Jeep. This method of camouflage actually proved ideal in Northwest Europe as the forest and built up areas rarely presented a solid white landscape. The white wash would be re-applied as necessary and could easily be rinsed off when the snow melted.

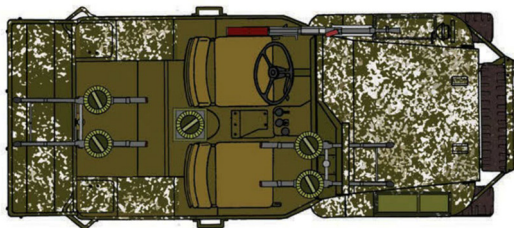
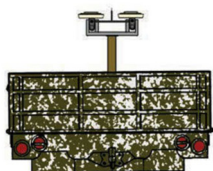
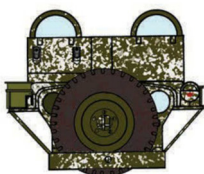
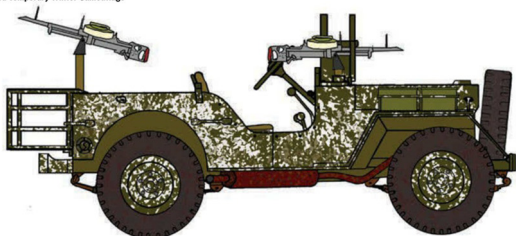
After the liberation of France, the war rapidly progressed to the lowlands and into the German heartland. Because of how quickly Germany was collapsing it was considered impractical to drop the SAS deep into Germany. The unit instead took on the role of screening the advance of

attacking armour divisions. This was a job ill-suited for the lightly armed and armoured gun-jeeps yet the unit proved itself time and again. The last actions of the SAS during World War II found the unit overseeing the surrender of German units in Norway and searching for Nazi war criminals in Germany. For these final operations when fierce combat was unlikely, the SAS operated with parade ground smartness. The vehicles were freshly painted and properly marked; including the famed winged dagger on the armour plate. Kit was neatly stowed and the men were in proper uniform. Contrary to the myths, Mayne demanded the men of the SAS to live up to the high discipline of the Guards Regiments and expected uniforms to be worn correctly; right down to wearing the beret without a tilt.

As the war came to an end, the SAS had developed an effective gun-jeep that proved itself beyond expectation. The final version of the Jeep actually survived the disbandment of the SAS and continued to be used by the Parachute Regiment. When the SAS was reorganized and activated, the unit once again embraced the venerable gun-jeeps. The SAS continued to rely on this formidable weapon system until it was replaced by their 110 inch wheel based, purpose built Land Rovers (commonly known as Pink Panthers or Pinkies). Today's Pinkies, including their desert paint schemes, are a stoic tribute to the very first SAS Jeeps designed by David Stirling and Reg Seekings. Everything from gun locations to their three man crews shows that lessons learned over 65 years ago are still valid today. ■



Distressed Temporary Winter Camouflage



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1:35 IDF Merkava Mk. IID



**HBB83410**

1:700 USS Cole DDG-57



**HBB82477**

1:35 Hungarian Light Tank 38M Toldi I (A20)



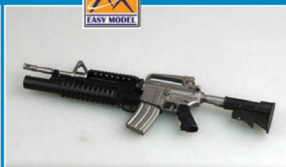
**HBB82486**

1:35 PLA ZBL-99 Snow Leopard IFV



**EM39103**

1:3 M16A1



**EM39109**

1:3 M4A1 M203



**EM39116**

1:3 M4 S.L.R.



**MIN35141**

1:35 German Tank Crew "Afrika Korps"



**MIN35134**

1:35 GAZ-MM Mod. 1943 Cargo Truck



**MIN35107**

1:35 German Staff Car Type 170V Cabriolet B



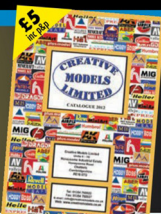
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# THIRD GENERATION

Pawel Rzymiski tackles his first modern Russian military vehicle - Zvezda's new 1:35 scale T-90 Main Battle Tank.

**T**he T-90 is a Russian third-generation main battle tank that is in fact an upgraded T-72. It was originally to be called the T-72BU but later renamed to T-90. It is the most modern tank in service with the Russian Ground Forces and Naval Infantry today. The T-90 is equipped with a powerful 125mm gun as its primary weapon,

capable of destroying all modern tanks and low flying objects such as helicopters. Standard protective measures include a blend of steel, composite armour, and Kontakt-5 explosive-reactive armour.

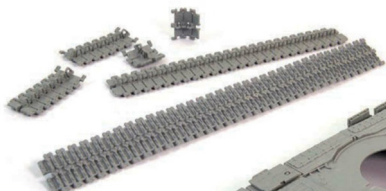
The 1:35 scale Zvezda T-90 kit has been at the very top of my wish list since the announcement of its upcoming release. One was headed my way as soon as it hit the hobby

shop shelves. I was so impatient that I decided to stop work on two other projects in order to get to it as soon as possible. I was very eager to crack open the box.

So, what do you get? The box is packed quite full. First of all there are six big sprues of light grey styrene parts, with sprue F being most impressive (and a bit scary too) due to the large number of

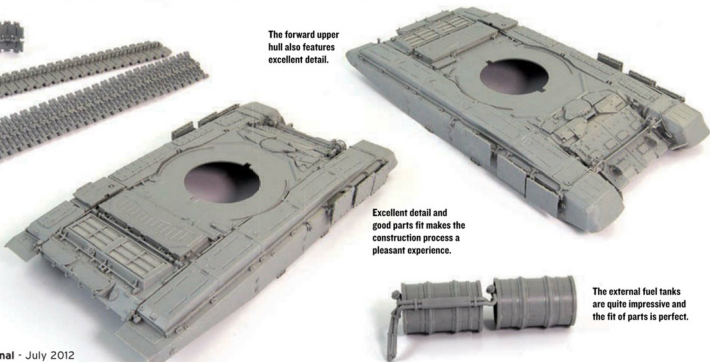
pieces. In the box you'll also find a sprue of clear parts (sprue E), two types of mesh and a string for the towing cables.

This was my first Zvezda kit and I must say I was very agreeably surprised with the general quality. Some of the smaller parts carried light moulding lines but nothing that couldn't be handled with a file or a scalpel.



Even though they are not workable, the tracks are easy to assemble, fit perfectly and boast excellent detail.

The forward upper hull also features excellent detail.



Excellent detail and good parts fit makes the construction process a pleasant experience.



The external fuel tanks are quite impressive and the fit of parts is perfect.



# ON

## BUILDING THE TURRET

I started with the turret as the instruction suggested. I realised quite quickly that it was a very complex aspect of the kit. The whole instruction manual is divided into 35 steps of which no less than 18 are dedicated to the construction of the turret. Luckily, the fit of all the parts is really good and the instructions are clear. It

is worth mentioning that all the turret's hatches will remain fully workable if you glue the parts carefully.

After finishing all of the turret sub-assemblies, I finally got to the point where it was necessary to take care of the gun barrel. Before starting the project I was desperately looking for an aftermarket one but none was

available at the moment. The T-72 barrel is quite similar but ultimately not exactly the same. I would have to say that the plastic kit-supplied barrel is its weakest point. After gluing the two halves together, it was necessary to sand down the centre join line that was quite visible at first in spite of careful gluing. Having done that, it became obvious very quickly that

the barrel wouldn't fit the mantlet. The issue was quickly resolved by shortening the longer end of one of the halves. This way that it doesn't block once inside the mantlet.

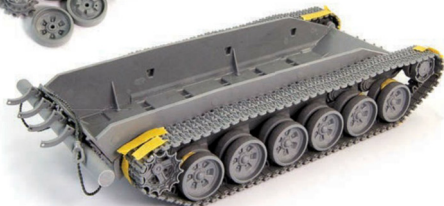
The only aftermarket item that was used on the turret (and the whole model for that matter) was a modern Russian antenna base from Armorscale (S35-004). It is worth mentioning that optics of the two



Wheels lack some details but are nevertheless very good for an out-of-the-box build.



The two-part barrel needed quite a bit of extra work to eliminate the seam and prepare it for assembly.



The lower hull with the wheels and tracks being test fitted.



The turret still has a long way to go.

**“This was my first Zvezda kit and I must say I was very agreeably surprised with the general quality...”**



The finished turret - almost Star Wars-like you might say!



◀ Infra Red projectors on each side of the turret have already been painted with the Tamiya X-27 Clear Red acrylic paint.

#### HULL

Having finished the turret, work begun on the upper and lower hull.

In Step 19, the instructions call to fit the mesh of the radiators. Zvezda supplies two kinds of plastic mesh for the radiators on the engine deck (Steps 19 and 22). They are a bit tricky to cut out properly, but you have enough of mesh for at least five kits so the margin of error is quite large and comfortable.

As stated before, the fit of the parts is really good. However, it is important to mention that some parts are quite fragile and great care should be taken when cutting them off the sprue. Good examples of such parts are F60, F90-91 and F157-158.

The upper hull went quite nicely and only fitting the side skirts (parts A5 - A6) demanded some special attention to minimise the gap between hull and skirts. The lower hull and the rear plate did not pose any particular problems.

While browsing the Internet for pictures of real vehicles, it was quite obvious that the external fuel tanks are not fitted most of the time. My guess is that they would be fitted only during a real conflict in case of long deployments and when the fuel supply would not be readily available. Even so, I decided to model this T-90 in "full option" mode with the external fuel tanks fitted. The tanks and the fuel pipe system builds up well but some test runs were necessary to get it right.

The track sections were now assembled and stored in separate plastic bags in order to not to mix the two runs. Finally, after around five hours of work, the upper and lower hull parts were ready. All the sub-assemblies were kept separately for the time being. Because the running gear will be partially covered by the side skirts, the painting of the lower hull (or at least of some of it), wheels and tracks should be done before attaching the two



The unditching log features nice wooden texture.

The Zvezda kit builds up very well and results in a superb model straight from the box.



The wheels and tracks have still not been glued in place yet to facilitate painting, which is just about to take place.

parts of the hull and fuel tanks (as they are connected with both lower and upper hull).

Also for the same reason, the towing cables were only attached to the rear plate. I must say that when I opened the box I was a bit sceptical about the string that comes with the kit. It is surely less shiny than the metal ones we are used to see, but I must say it performed very well. The main advantage was the flexibility, which is sometimes an issue that is the stuff of nightmares.

## PAINING

After some research over the Internet, I chose a three-tone camouflage scheme. Paints used were Tamiya acrylic XF-55 Deck Tan, XF-58 Olive Green darkened with some XF-10 Flat Brown and Testor's Model Master Flat Black.

Painting started with the road wheels, drive sprockets and idlers. Wheels were painted in three colours of the camouflage to come: three pairs in dark green, two pairs in sand and one pair all black - this is the combination that I have most often seen in real life pictures. After painting the lower hull and tracks, all the hull parts were finally glued together. Following that with Tamiya band and painting of the rest of the model has started.

First of all the model was sprayed with Mr Surfacer 1200 thinned (1:1) with Mr Levelling Thinner. Next, the base dark green colour was evenly sprayed all over the model.

Areas to be sprayed with the sand colour were separated from the rest using Patafix (another kind of Blu-Tack poster adhesive) as a masking medium. The Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan appeared to be the suitable paint to this purpose. Even if a bit too much on the pale side at the beginning, it was going to get darker with the filters and oils to come. The last colour (very limited in surface covering comparing with the two before), the black, was sprayed in the same way using Patafix as the masking material.

## WEATHERING

The only decals to be applied were large, plain white tactical numbers. The instructions show a vehicle with number 522 but after some research over the Internet, I found a picture showing tank numbers 522 and 520. "520" was chosen.

Before applying the decals, the surface under them received a coat of Johnson's Kleer in order to avoid any silvering effect. The next day a thin coat of flat acrylic varnish was applied with a brush to seal the decals and to protect them from the weathering to come.

The next step was filters. These were made from artist's oil paints and White Spirit. I found medium brown and grey colours to be most suitable for this job. They were applied with a large flat brush.

The model was then left to dry completely for around two days. F

The following step consisted of some delicate chipping. The only chips I decided to add were on the sandy areas of the camouflage. Vallejo acrylic paint came in handy here. The colour used was the German Camo Dark Brown 70979, which would correspond well to the dark green base colour.

To add more depth to the model dark pin washes were applied in all panel lines, recesses and around raised details.

For the past few years, modellers have had a large choice of ready to use products that certainly save a lot of precious time. The two bottles of MIG Productions Brown and Dark Wash in my possession are only half empty and they will serve me well for at least few years more. The Dark Wash (P220) was mainly used over darker (dark green) areas and the Brown Wash (P221) over lighter, sandy ones. In order to achieve the desired, visual effect the washes must have been applied at least twice in most of the areas. It is worth mentioning that the filters and washes (all oil / enamel based) were applied directly over the paintwork without any additional ▶



Three-tone camouflage was done with Tamiya and Testor's Model Master acrylics.



At this stage the finish is stark and highly contrasty.



Light chipping was done with a 10-0 brush and Vallejo acrylic paints.



Washes were applied in all the recesses using a fine brush.



Washes were done using my favourite washing products - Brown and Dark Wash from Mig Productions.



Dark streaks were done using Mig and AK mixtures.



The first layer of mud is done with AK's Dust Effects mixed with plaster. Short blasts of airbrush compressed air creates random splashes.



The final darkest layer represents the freshest mud. AK's Winter Grime performs this role quite well.



The base for splashes of mud was achieved by airbrushing AK's Dust Effects mixed with their odourless thinner.



Then comes the second (darker) layer of Earth Effects applied in the same way as the first.



MIG Productions' Allied Green pigment was used to subtly fade the dark green camouflage paint.

Weathering is almost coming to an end, but there are still a couple of final important steps.



Artist's black pigment was used to make the fumes traces under the exhaust.



Dry pigments applied in places where dust and dirt would accumulate.



The excess was gently wiped away with a large brush.



The dust and dirt is finally done!



The very last layer is Lifecolor's Tensocrom.



Tensocrom (a kind of liquid pigment) is the perfect solution to add the last touch ups.



Tensocrom TSC202 Sand applied with a fine brush over the splashes of mud to add some lighter colour variation.



TSC 211 Burnt Brown was used on the sides to add some more wet streaks but also to weather the upper surfaces of the hull and the turret.

◀ protection thanks to the fact that the whole camouflage was painted with acrylics.

Coming next were the streaks on most of the flat (vertical and horizontal) surfaces. In order to protect the washes the model was given a thin coat of Vallejo Matt Varnish 70520. It is quite thick right out of the bottle but with the air pressure raised to 1.5 bar it went well through my 0.3mm airbrush nozzle.

With the washes complete the streaking could now begin. I decided to again put into service the MIG Dark Wash and the AK's AK 014 Winter Streaking Grime. The method used is quite simple. Vertical lines are painted with a fine round brush (I use a 5/0 size). They are left to dry for around

The trick to successfully using Tensocrom fluids is to leave them for some time to dry to see the real effect and apply them once more if needed.

20-30 minutes and then gently wiped off - but not completely - with a flat brush only moistened with White Spirit. This can be repeated multiple times until the desired effect is achieved.

Weathering continued with the creation of mud. The base for mud was done by airbrushing AK's Dust Effects mixed with their odourless thinner.

Next, splashes were added all around the hull, side skirts and running gear. To achieve the ▶



◀ effect of wet mud, the splashes were applied in three layers using three different AK liquids mixed with plaster: AK015 Dust Effects, AK017 Earth Effects and finally the darkest AK014 Winter Grime. Each time, an old brush was dampened in the mixture and short bursts of air from the airbrush were sprayed through the bristles, creating splashes on the hull. The reason for keeping the right order is that it is very important to achieve a natural effect of fresh mud accumulated over the older, drier and thus lighter mud.

The weathering process was slowly coming to an end.

MIG Productions' Allied Green pigment P036 was simply dry brushed on green parts of the model to give the paint more faded look. Rubble Dust pigment P234 was used to dusty up the rest of the tank, especially the upper hull. It was applied everywhere where the dust would naturally accumulate. The pigment was first brushed on and then fixed with Tamiya thinner. After drying the excess was simply brushed off. Using Tamiya thinner as fixer gives a lot of flexibility at the end of the process, which may turn out to be quite important in some cases if

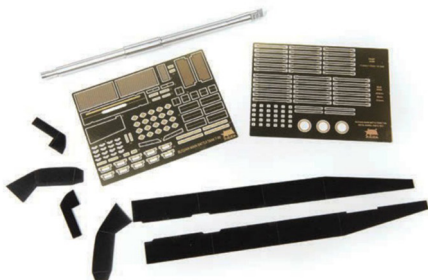
there has been an overdosing of pigment.

Having finished with the dry pigments, some oily stains were added around the engine deck and external fuel tanks. The liquid used for this purpose was the MIG's P410 Oil and Grease Stain Mixture thinned with White Spirit. The tracks previously primed with a dark colour were now painted with AK Interactive Dust, Earth and Dark Mud enamel mixtures. Once dried the tracks were dry brushed with Humbrol No. 11 Silver Metallic enamel paint.

To vary the dusty look, Lifecolor's Tenscrom fluid pigments were used. TSC 02 Sand, TSC 211 Burnt Brown and TSC 203 Earth were applied on almost all surfaces of the model. The trick to successfully using those fluids is that they are not fully visible during and right after the application. Leave for some time to dry to see the real effect and apply them once more if needed.

#### CONCLUSION

This T-90 was a first-timer for me in many aspects. First Russian tank, first modern armour subject and first ever Zvezda kit assembled. I must admit that it



Zvezda has announced an upgrade set that will include a one-piece turned metal barrel, flexible side skirts and two photo-etched frets.

was a very pleasant build mainly because of the well above average quality and high level of detail right out of the box.

The day I finished the model I found that Zvezda has announced the future release of an upgrade set for their T-90. The set will contain a turned metal barrel, photo-etched parts and flexible front mudguards and side skirts. Definitely another must have. Well done Zvezda! ■

#### Modelspec

Zvezda 1:35 T-90 Main Battle Tank Kit No. 3573

#### Accessories used:

Armorscale Item No. S35-004 - Modern Russian Antenna Base  
Mr Surfacer 1200  
Mr Levelling Thinner  
Patafix

#### Paints & Weathering Products:

Tamiya acrylic paints: XF-55 Deck Tan; XF-58 Olive Green; XF-10 Flat Brown.  
Testor's Model Master Flat Black.  
Vallejo acrylic paints: German Camo Dark Brown 70919; Matt Varnish 70520.  
MIG Productions: Dark Wash (P221); Allied Green pigment P036; Rubble Dust pigment P234; P410 Oil and Grease Stain Mixture; AK Interactive: AK015 Dust Effects; AK017 Earth Effects; AK014 Winter Grime.  
Lifecolor Tenscrom fluid pigments: TSC 02 Sand; TSC 211 Burnt Brown; TSC 203 Earth

✓ High level of detail; excellent quality moulding; good fit; accurate; unique and interesting subject.

✗ Issues with the two-part plastic gun barrel.

#### Available from

Zvezda kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.uk](http://www.hobbyco.uk)

Rating ●●●●●●●○



This T-90 was my first Russian tank, first modern armour subject and first ever Zvezda kit assembled.

The kit was a very pleasant build mainly because of the well above average quality and high level of detail right out of the box.



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Markings are supplied for two vehicles.



HobbyBoss suggests gloss white for the United Nations option, but matt white might look better.

# FIGHTING SWEDE

**Andy King** examines HobbyBoss' 1:35 Swedish CV-90-40C Infantry Fighting Vehicle, and likes what he sees.

**T**he CV-90 is a Swedish designed and built IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) that was initiated in 1984 after a request from the Swedish Army for a new vehicle with high mobility, anti-tank and air defence capability plus good protection for the occupants inside. First deliveries began in 1993.

As well as the Swedes, Norway, The Netherlands, Finland, Denmark and Switzerland currently operate the vehicle with Canada, Poland, the UK and USA evaluating it too. The CV-90-40C, which is the subject of the kit, is the International Operations version used only by the Swedes and features additional armour and tropical climate kit.

Weighing in around 35 tonnes, it is powered by a Scania DSI 500hp engine and can reach speeds up to 70 kph (43.4 mph). Main armament is a 40mm Bofors Autocannon although for export models the 30mm or 35mm Bushmaster cannon is fitted, secondary armament being a 7.62m Browning MG. Three 76mm grenade launchers are also mounted on either side of the turret for laying down smoke. The vehicle has a crew of three plus room for seven troops and they are fully protected from armour piercing rounds up to 14.5mm.

Contained in a very sturdy box, the HobbyBoss 1:35 scale kit is very nicely moulded and has well over 500 parts, some with foam wrapped around as extra

protection. There is a clear sprue for the lights, a fret of photo etch, a nicely printed decal sheet plus a full colour printed sheet for the painting and decaling of the model.

Out of curiosity, I measured the basic kit hull against known specs and it is 185mm long (actual should be 187.1) by 90mm wide (actual being 88.5) but I'm not sure if the width is with or without the side skirts - one for the experts to fight over I think.

External detailing is very well done, particularly the 'spots' for the SAAB Barracuda camouflage netting system and the anti-slip tread plating around the turret hatches. The main gun is a two part moulding and probably better replaced with a metal aftermarket item as clean up after assembly will be tricky.

The road wheels feature a prominent seam line around them but after looking at pictures of the real vehicle they are there, you would just need to sand them back a bit for more of a scale appearance. Track links are individual ones with separate tread blocks and will require removing from the sprues, plus there is some light flash present but thankfully no pin marks to fill and sand.

The etch supplied in the kit is quite impressive and amongst other parts provides for air intake grills and some REALLY small tie downs for the turret so have fun removing them from the sheet without feeding the carpet

monster.

The rear door features some nice detailing inside and out but be prepared for some serious scratch building if you want the door open as there is no interior whatsoever. No doubt an aftermarket resin and etch set is in the works somewhere but until then its DIY time.

There are two paint schemes for the Swedish Army to choose from, either overall green or overall white for a UN machine. The paint call outs are from the Mr Hobby, Vallejo, Model Master, Tamiya and Humbrol ranges. HobbyBoss recommend a gloss white for the UN vehicle. Personally I'd sooner stick with a matt white. Decals are well printed, in register and feature optional licence plates.

Summing up, this looks to be a great kit and even straight out of the box should build into an excellent model of the CV90. The only downside is the lack of interior and HobbyBoss can do this well as witnessed with the fully detailed turret in their VK4502 released last year, however the real plus side is that we have what looks to be a first rate kit of a rather tasty looking armoured vehicle.

HobbyBoss is definitely improving with every release and having built one of their earlier kits this should be a joy to build.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample [www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)



The large upper and lower hull parts.



Check out the high level of detail moulded to the hull parts.



The turret is also very well detailed.



Tread plate texture is impressive.



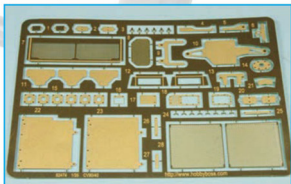
One of the nice road wheels.



A compliment of tools is also included.



The tracks are made up from individual links, boosting the parts count.



The photo-etched fret is substantial.

# ACCURATE ARMOUR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

## AN INTERVIEW WITH DEREK HANSEN

The Editor chats to Derek Hansen, founder and owner of the iconic Scottish model manufacturer Accurate Armour on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

- Brett:** Derek, congratulations on Accurate Armour's 25th Anniversary. Thanks for joining us on this special occasion. Exactly when did Accurate Armour commence trading?
- Derek:** We started up in 1987 in the garage and one room of our house, "Bruce Cottage" in Killearn, Scotland; so a proper "Cottage Industry" I guess.
- Brett:** What was your occupation before you started Accurate Armour?
- Derek:** I worked on the research and development of military lasers, initially as a Laser Physicist then as an R&D manager for a major UK defence contractor.
- Brett:** Were you a modeller back then, and what scales/subjects did you typically prefer?
- Derek:** Yes, I have made models for as long as I can remember, starting at school with Airfix of course! Looking back I think I made almost everything that was available for a while including model railways, ships, rockets and aircraft. I even went through a wargaming phase with Roco Miniatanks and then GHQ micro armour. I eventually settled on scratch-building new subjects because I enjoyed the technical research and history of a subject just as much as making the model. Much later when I was at University I decided to specialise in military vehicles in 1:76 and 1:35 scales.
- Brett:** What was your motivation to start Accurate Armour? Did you commence as a full-time venture?
- Derek:** After many years working for a very large company the principal motivation was to be my own boss, and I wanted to explore whether producing specialist vehicle kits in 1:35 scale was a viable business (as it had never been done before and I was always impressed with the Verlinden range of accessories and smaller products). I also needed to find out if I could enjoy this venture enough to give up a well-paid and rewarding career, so I started Accurate Armour working part time in the evenings and weekends. After 18 months and seven full kits on sale I finally made the big decision to go ahead full time with Accurate Armour Limited, and the move to Port Glasgow in 1988.
- Brett:** I am sure that our readers would be very interested to hear about the mastering and production process. Can you tell us a bit about these?
- Derek:** Readers would find that the mastering process is very much standard "hands-on" modelling, and all the bench techniques are the same, the big difference is that you cannot finish the master model! The final master will only have one of each part so we only get to see the completed result after all the moulding and casting of the first prototype parts. Once any 'bugs' are ironed out the master goes for final moulding and then production, and this master model will be kept as it will be re-moulded many times in the future. (Well we hope so as it means the kits sold!)  
The actual production of our type of product is again just labour intensive moulding and parts casting all done by hand. It is really repetitive work just scaled up to many thousands of parts per week.



Accurate Armour's Port Glasgow factory and showroom. Visitors are welcome, but phone ahead first!



Some of the front line of Accurate Armour, (from left to right) Colin Lamond, Rob Tearle and Tony Docherty.



Derek Hansen of Accurate Armour.

**Brett:** Technology has had a big impact on the model industry over the last 25 years. What are some of the advances that have changed the way that Accurate Armour does business, both in terms of manufacture and dealing with your clients.

**Derek:** For us, the manufacturing process has changed little over the years, although all the chemicals have become far safer for us to use day to day, and of more consistent quality for our customers. The big advance has been the Internet, which has transformed the way we do business in that we have a faster and more dynamic relationship with customers. I know that sounds a little pretentious but I think everyone in retail business knows it to be true.

**Brett:** Speaking of your clients, I take it that you send your kits far and wide. What are some of the most exotic locations where Accurate Armour kits have found a home?

**Derek:** We're based in Port Glasgow, so more or less anywhere else is exotic! Delivering on a deadline to a remote Hotel or Airport is a challenge, as was providing on time an Ivory painted Ferret model for the top of a wedding cake and a pair of Challenger-2 models for a VIP in Whitehall. We have customers all around the world so it is difficult to single out one location in particular; however one of the aspects of our particular business which we take very seriously is the sending of orders to modellers who are serving with Armed Forces in the field, in places that under better circumstances could be classed as exotic.

**Brett:** Military activity over the last 20 years has seen the accelerated development of full-sized armoured and support vehicles. Accurate Armour has been quick to offer kits of some of these vehicles. What is the process for researching and initiating, say, your latest series of Land Rover updates?

**Derek:** We try to keep up to date with modern developments and we work with defence contractors from time to time to produce display models of recent vehicles for them and their MoD clients and end users. Sometimes there is an opportunity to proceed with a "public kit version" of a subject at a later date and our updated WMik vehicles, and the Jackal and Coyote, and many older kits are examples of this working well. We have always mixed in both current and historical projects as our range has developed and I feel that keeps everyone's interests going and it fits in with my own very broad interest in technology.

**Brett:** Can you let our readers in on any advance information on future releases from Accurate Armour?

**Derek:** Of course I can, we always have new projects on the go and we have been working for some time on our Diamond-T tank transporters to fill in the gap between the WWI Scammell Pioneer and the Post-War Mighty Antar, and successors. Details of these are starting to appear (I hope!) as you go to press. Not to neglect armoured vehicles we have Churchill and Centurion ARV conversions in the pipeline, and in 1:48 scale a family of RAF Albion truck kits. And more; there is always more!

**Brett:** What was the first kit choice for Accurate Armour and why?

**Derek:** The Soviet BMP-1 MICV was chosen as the first kit. Working in the defence industry in the 1970s and 1980s Soviet vehicles were a fascinating mystery to me and great fun to research. I researched this vehicle for years before sitting down to make the master model.

**Brett:** Have you had a lot of support from others in the setting up and running of Accurate Armour?

**Derek:** Accurate Armour was not set up with a flourish of cash, simply a product and a small ad in a magazine; so the first and most important group of people I should thank are my customers. Thank you all for your patronage over the years. Without the support of my wife none of this would have happened in the first place and she is still involved on a week-to-week basis, as are all the guys who have worked for me over many years (decades even!). I would also single out my friends, Jon Bottomley and Tim Babb for their untiring support in developing ideas, products and 'production headaches' in equal measure, and all the others who still contribute in many different, but important ways. ■



The CONWAY 'Interim Heavy Gun Tank', designed and produced during 1950-1952. This is a 1:35 scale conversion for the AFV Club Centurion.



Accurate Armour's 1:35 scale Foden IMMLC full multimedia kit with DROPS 155mm Ammunition Load.



Accurate Armour also offers one of the massive ex-Gneisenau Battlecruiser turrets emplaced as Battery Fjell and Battery Øerlandet in Norway as a 1:76 scale kit. The bunker is included too.



Accurate Armour produces a good selection of figures and accessories, including otherwise rare modern British figures for vignettes and dioramas.



Dioramas and vignettes are also supported by a range of 1:35 scale accessories.

More information on the products of Accurate Armour may be found on their website [www.accurate-armour.com](http://www.accurate-armour.com)

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3



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Employees/volunteers working for Accurate Armour and associated companies and their families are not permitted to enter. Entries are limited to one person per household/person. The winner's names will be published in a future edition of Model Military International. All entries received must reach ADH Publishing by 1st August when the draw takes place. Open to readers worldwide.

# TINY TOWN TIGER II

**Jamie Haggio** enjoyed building his first 1:72 scale armour kit, Revell's King Tiger, but he just loved painting it!

I think model shows are the ideal inspiration. Every time I attend one I have a surge of good ideas and potential projects start forming in my mind. This show was Huddersfield in the North of England. I'd not attended this one before as I have only recently moved so was looking forward to it immensely, what I was hoping for was seeing lots of high quality models which would get the creative juices flowing, and it didn't disappoint. I ended up spending a

small amount of cash on Revell's King Tiger in 1:72. Recently I have been attracted to 1:72 aircraft and so I thought I'd have a go at an armour model in this scale.

## THE MODEL

Considering its small scale, Revell's 1:72 scale Tiger II is very nicely detailed. There are a few compromises that can't be avoided owing to its small size, the lack of engine grill detail being one. This can only be adequately simulated

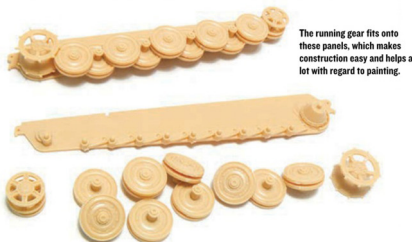
using photo-etch but I couldn't get hold of any for this scale. My usual sources drew a blank, which was disappointing.

The tracks are also quite nice, being the link and length type.

## CONSTRUCTION

I debated about where to start the build but in the end began with the running gear. The wheels were assembled and painted with Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow and Mr Color Steel. They were then glued

onto the mounting plate in order that I could then tackle the tracks. The tracks were given a base coat of dark brown on the sprue before being attached to the wheels and here I hit trouble. Initially I used super glue to attach them, however this was too brittle and I kept knocking off the tiny links or sticking them to my fingers, so much so the air turned quite blue at times and I incurred the wrath of Mrs H. After a cup of tea to calm down a bit I had a go with the other



The running gear fits onto these panels, which makes construction easy and helps a lot with regard to painting.



The wheels and tracks have been painted here. This was the most frustrating part of the build. Those tracks are just so fiddly!

The turret is simplicity itself with few components but nice enough detail in this scale.



The hull is also nicely detailed but it really needs photo etched intake covers. I have pre-shaded them in black to retain shadows and grime after later painting.



Painting underway. The model has been primed and pre-shaded.



side. This went much easier owing to the fact that I used Mr Cement S from Mr Hobby. This gave sufficient drying time to play with the links for a better fit and they also didn't stick to my fingers!

With that tedious job out of the way, the rest of vehicle was made up. In fact this only took a short while and before I knew it I was ready to start painting.

## PAINTING

Ah, painting - the reason I love armour modelling so much. I think we all have a picture of the finished model in our heads and this is what I usually try to aim for. I don't always achieve this but it is nice when I occasionally do. Did I with this one? Not quite, but nearly.

The first job was to prime the model. For this I departed from my usual Alclad Grey to try Vallejo's Polyurethane white primer. It wasn't bad - went on nice and smoothly but beware, it doesn't like to be sanded and will peel off if you try, so light even coats are the order of the day.

The model was pre-shaded with black in the shadowy areas before the base coat of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow was applied. Various sticky out bits were touched in a lighter colour to add contrast that really helps in this small scale. Don't worry if it looks a little odd at this stage. It will blend in and look more natural during the subsequent layers.

Next up was the camouflage, which was sprayed freehand using Gunze and Tamiya acrylics. I used Gunze Red Brown, although in hindsight I think this is a little too red. Also, the green I mixed from various shades is too bright. Next time I will endeavour to tone them down a tad.

## WEATHERING

I wanted to depict a beaten up vehicle that had seen a lot of action. I accept that I may have gone a bit overboard here but I'm pleased with it, which is the main thing.

First up though was the paint chipping. Taking some Vallejo Model Air Dark Yellow and Citadel colours, the chips were applied with a fine brush. The main thing to bear in mind is the small size of the model. It was quite difficult to keep things in scale. A dark brown mix of Vallejo colours was mixed for the bare metal chips. This was nerve wracking as the underlying yellow base colour chips were very fine.

The model at this stage looked quite garish so it was time to tone things down with some filters. I used dark brown, mid brown and grey brown filters mixed from oils and applied over a few days starting from dark and going lighter all the time. The effect was finished off using spots of white oil paint blended into the main camouflage but again I think I could have done more of this to

The base colour was Gunze Dark Yellow. However, here you can see that I have highlighted some of the relief in a lighter version to create some depth.



Next up was the Red Brown for which I used Gunze, as it is slightly more red than Tamiya's equivalent. This was sprayed freehand.



The green was sprayed last. I used a custom mix for a bright green as the weathering layers will dull the colour and in this small scale we don't want things to get too dark.



**"The small scale brings its own challenges as things have to be kept on the subtle side..."**



The first layer of chipping was done using Vallejo dark yellow and a fine brush. I wanted a beaten up vehicle and probably went a bit too far but hey, I like it.



The next layer was the bare metal chips.



A mix of a dark brown and black were used.



After the decals were applied (note the register issues) the filters were added. This blends the paintwork together, toning things down.



Streaking dirt and grunge was simulated by blending vertical streaks of a dirty black brown mix of Mig Productions dark wash and black oil paint.



This grime adds to the filth and overall weathering effect. Rust streaks using AK Interactive's enamel weathering product was used sparingly.



With the pigments applied and all the dangly bits added I thought I was done, however those spare track links look way too orange!



After the model was finished I went back and post shaded the model with a very dark brown.



This toned down the orange rust and the still-bright paintwork for a much more restrained finish.



The tracks and running gear were weathered using various earth tones from the War Pigs pigment range.

tone down those bright colours a bit more.

Over the top of these layers it was time to add the muck and filth. The first stage was to add the streaking grime. Not having any AK product of the same name I used the gloop from the bottom of the MIG Productions Dark Wash in vertical streaks on the horizontal and sloped surfaces. This was then blended with a clean brush moistened in White Spirit. Rust streaks from random paint chips were done using the same method

and AK Rust Streaks enamel.

The spare links and track changing gear were painted on the sprue with a dark brown. Various War Pigs rust pigments were then applied, however they ended up too orange as you can see on some of the photos. After the model was finished I went back and post shaded the model with a very dark brown, toning down the orange rust and the still bright paintwork for a much more restrained finish.

The tracks and running gear were weathered using various

earth tones from the War Pigs pigment range and the last job was to add the oil leaks using black oil paint suitably thinned.

#### CONCLUSION

As 1:72 scale models go, this is a good one and an enjoyable project too. The small scale brings its own challenges as things have to be kept on the subtle side but I did have great fun doing it and I can really recommend a 1:72 scale project as perhaps something a bit different. ■



The last job was to add the oil leaks using suitably thinned black oil paint.

## Modelspec

Revell 1:72 scale Tiger II Aust. B Production Turret  
Kit No. 03129

#### Modelling Products Used:

Mr Hobby - Mr Cement S

#### Paints & Finishing Products:

Tamiya acrylics  
Gunze acrylics  
Vallejo polyurethane white primer  
Vallejo acrylics  
Citadel paints  
MIG Productions Dark Wash  
AK Interactive Rust Streaks  
War Pigs Rust Pigments  
Mr Color Steel

- ✓ Good fit; quick build; link and length tracks; enjoyable project.
- ✗ Solid engine deck screens.

#### Available from

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For further information visit [www.revell.eu](http://www.revell.eu)

Rating ●●●●●●●○

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Ross Ferro takes a close look at Trumpeter's latest 1:35 Soviet WWII field gun, the widely used 152mm M1937 Howitzer.

# SOVIET HOWITZER

**T**he 152mm Soviet howitzer gun M1937 (ML-20) first saw action in World War II and has even seen use in conflicts into the late twentieth century.

The kit is made up from more than 260 nicely moulded plastic parts, two basic sheets of photo etch and a turned aluminium front section of the gun barrel. A twelve page instruction booklet and single page colour painting guide complete the contents.

Construction is broken down into 13 steps, with good detail around each area of construction without being overly busy.

Trumpeter does give the option to have the howitzer configured in either travel or firing mode so close attention at these steps is required to ensure you end up with the kit finished how you intended. The single page colour guide is very basic and "Russian Green", is the recommended finish and with no decals supplied the howitzer will look very plain indeed so you could do more work to the monotone finish if that's your thing.

Steps 1 through 6 sets out the construction of the lower gun carriage and Trumpeter has done an excellent job in capturing the many fine rivets and bolt details in the plastic parts. The addition of some of the photo etched parts adds nicely to this detail and will look wonderful with some careful painting, washes, filters and dustallation. The gun trailing

arms are a great example of clever moulding techniques and attention to detail. Each of the two wheels is made up from no less than six parts. They are very nicely detailed and moulded. For my money, I like my tyres in plastic rather than vinyl. Finally, if you are careful with the glue some of this assembly can be made workable.

Step 7 is where the upper gun and gun shield are constructed and again, through careful use of glue, the elevation of the gun can be made workable. The gun shield is commendably thin and there is not an ejector pin mark insight. Hooray!

Step 8 sets out construction of the gun barrel, gun cradle and breech block, with all of the parts again very nicely moulded. Trumpeter has provided the front half of the gun barrel in both plastic and a very nicely turned aluminium option. However, the rear half of the gun barrel is in plastic only so you will have to deal with the inevitable join seam, which begs the question as to why the whole gun tube wasn't provided as an aluminium option as well.

Step 9 sees the recuperator cylinders and photo-etched covers being assembled. You will need to be careful when bending cover parts to fit over the cylinders so perhaps annealing the brass will make this easier. Both of the recuperators may be made to move if once again you are careful with the glue.

Step 10 (Firing mode) or Step 11 (Travel mode) is the final phase for the construction of the gun and sees the upper gun carriage glued to the lower gun carriage. At this point I understood that the gun cradle could be made to elevate and the gun trail arms could be played for firing mode but the gun would not traverse because it was glued in place (travel mode?) and to my eye and with some investigation it appears that there is no actual pin for the gun to traverse on. This may be intentional or perhaps a kit design blunder as the traverse pin is clearly visible near the front of the upper gun carriage and the traversing rack of teeth have been nicely moulded onto the lower gun carriage.

Steps 12-13, details construction and placement of the separate gun limber and once again all parts are very nicely moulded and the limber would be used when placing the gun in travel mode.

In conclusion, this kit shows just how far Trumpeter has come in the production of plastic kits. The fact that only half an aluminium barrel is supplied and that the gun appears not to be able to traverse are the only disappointing aspects in an otherwise nicely produced kit. ■

Thanks to JB Wholesalers for the sample

[www.jbwholesalers.com.au](http://www.jbwholesalers.com.au)

Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond



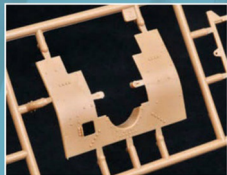
The main barrel parts – plastic muzzle, forward and rear barrel sections.



An optional turned metal section is supplied for the forward barrel.



The muzzle and rear sections are split lengthwise into two parts.



The plastic shield is admirably thin.



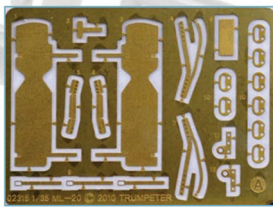
Wheels are very well done and made up from six plastic parts each.



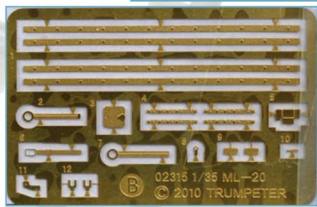
Gun carriage parts.



Trumpeter has taken great care packing some of the more delicate parts.



Two photo-etched frets are included.



These supply lots of useful detail parts for the gun shield and carriage.

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# GAME OVER FOR C

## SIRTE, OCTOBER 2011



# GADDAFI

José Brito takes a scene from modern-day Libya and turns it into a dramatic 1:35 scale diorama



**T**unisia, Egypt and now Libya, Syria is in chaos. Who will be next? Yemen?

The Arab world is in turmoil and undertaking a dramatic change. Who would have thought even 12 months ago that an established dictator like Gaddafi would be ousted? Most of those dictators did not anticipate or, even worse, underestimated the power of the Internet and social networks. Even if they could control their own media such as newspapers or TV, they ultimately could not control the Internet and "weapons" like smart cell phones. Someone once said that the "pen is mightier than the sword", but today I would dare to say that a "cell phone is mightier than an entire army". Now, in every conflict, riot... there is a phone broadcasting live for any part of the world. This is true power and no one can escape that, not even the most brutal regime.

The Libyan conflict is over and a new era is rising. It is "Game Over" for Gaddafi. The conflict was broadcast live from the beginning. The updates were often on our TV screens as they were happening, and social networks like Facebook or Twitter played a major role. It ended with Gaddafi being summarily executed by the rebel forces. Who would have guessed that a few months later?

Inspired by the thousands of pictures from the conflict, I decided to base a diorama around these dramatic events.

## CONSTRUCTION

One of the major elements of the diorama is MIG Productions' 1:35 scale Burn Out Modern Car. This is a full resin kit and as usual from this brand, the casting is top quality and flawless. I decided to personalise my model and with the help of aluminium foil from a drink can - beer, of course! I added some damage to the roof. I applied several small twisted aluminium pieces with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot Glue. This added an extra touch of realism and originality to the model. Being ultra-thin glue, Rocket Hot Glue was used in the capillary mode. It dries fast and is very strong - ideal for this kind of jobs when we need to glue two different materials together.

Once assembled, the realism is evident and really improves the model. Some bullet holes were also added.

Steps like this are not difficult and they play a major role when we need the extra touch of realism and accuracy.

The burnt out seats are 100%

scratch built. MIG Productions kit provides a jig and some small resin tools that help a lot with this task. Small touches like this really can bring a model to life and make it much more visually interesting. Several diameters of metal wires were used.

Soon, the model was fully assembled and ready for painting. Small items were also added to the engine bay and wires in the burned out tyres. Markings were also drawn onto the roof. These were helpful later when it came to the extra detailing and upgrading.

The other major element in the diorama was MIG Productions' 1:35 scale Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux Veteran Warrior. Like the Burnt Out Modern Car, this is a full resin kit. Detail is top quality and the resin casting flawless. Only some ultra-fine flash needs to be removed. This can be easily achieved with the proper tools and the help of a toothbrush.

Beware however - resin dust can be very harmful to your lungs, so an appropriate mask is necessary during the sanding and cleaning process. Remember that your health has no price and you only live once!

A recoilless BJ-11 gun from MIG Productions was destined to be placed in the back, but I would need a metal structure to mount it.

The structure was built from plastic card profiles. A small photo-etched plate was also used. Everything was held in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Plastic Glue and Plastic Magic, applied with their Pin Flow applicator. Both glue solutions are ideal to work in capillary mode and it is quite easy to control the flow.

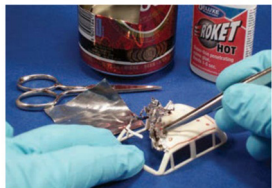
All the extra work imparted more of a "rebel look" to the vehicle. Some of these extras included the new front armour plate, straps from lead foil and a trap that will be painted in the new Libya flag colours.

The combination of the BJ-11 recoilless gun and back structure started to look like a rebel gun with all those modifications and adaptations.

## PAINTING

The models were built in sub-assemblies. This made the painting process much easier and allowed the most difficult spots to be reached before assembly made them inaccessible.

As usual, my models were primed in Vallejo acrylic primers. In this case I used the Vallejo Grey Primer 74601. Vallejo primers dry fast and make the surface very smooth, ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several



Some damage to the roof of MIG Productions' Burnt Out Modern Car was added.



The metal was cut from a beer can and secured with Rocket Hot Glue.



The burnt out seats are 100% scratch built using a jig and some small tools to create the frames and springs.



The resin kit goes together very well.



Small details were added in the engine bay.



Several markings were drawn onto the roof. These were helpful during later detailing.

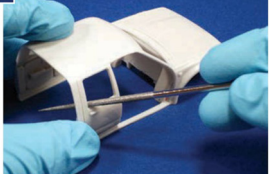


These are the main resin parts of MIG Productions' Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux Veteran Warrior.

Wires were also added in the burned out tyres.



This is a full resin kit. Detail is top quality and the resin casting flawless.



A small amount of very fine flash had to be removed before assembly and painting could commence.



The flash was quickly eliminated with a selection of sanding sticks and files.



The wheel rims were painted Vallejo Steel and allowed to dry before further masking and spraying of the tyre colour.



The base coat for the pickup's interior was Vallejo Model Air 71053 Sea Grey.



The passenger compartment and engine bay of the burnt out car were also base-coated with Vallejo Model Air 71053 Sea Grey.

The cab and engine bay were now protected with Tristar masking tape and MIG Productions 502 Abtelling Liquid Mask.



Details inside the pickup's driver's cab were picked out with Vallejo acrylics.



The pickup was also now masked off with Tristar tape and Liquid Mask.



The driver's seat was painted a different shade to lend a bit of variety.



Rifles, helmets and other accessories helped make the interior of the pickup busy and more interesting.



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Time to start painting the exterior of the vehicles now. The first step for the burnt out car was a coat of Vallejo Model Air 71001 White.



The masking material was now removed from the engine bay and passenger compartment.



Some areas were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71083 Orange.



Other areas were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71053 Dark Sea Grey.

layers in order to maintain the surface detail. They do not need any kind of dilution. All we have to do is shake the bottle very well and start airbrushing.

The pickup interior was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71053 Sea Grey and the smaller details were picked in acrylics from the Vallejo Model Color range.

Before painting the exterior, the windshields from the pickup model were masked using Tristar masking tape and MIG Productions 502

Abteilung Liquid Mask. Liquid mask is water soluble and may be applied in successive layers. You can also use its capillary action to reach the most difficult spots.

The interior was painted in acrylics from the Vallejo Model Color range. Several items including guns, maps and accessories were added at the stage. Those small items add even more interest to the model.

Once assembled, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo

Model Air 71004 Blue. As usual, the paint was airbrushed in several layers in order not to obscure the surface detail.

Zenith transformation was achieved by airbrushing the model once again in Vallejo Model Air 71089 Light Sea Blue. This colour was airbrushed over the top and most raised areas.

Small details were picked in Vallejo Model Color in different colours in order to add more realism to the model. This is a

very time consuming process, but necessary in order to get the best results.

The words on the roof were painted in white from the Vallejo Model Color range. They were applied in successive, well-thinned layers. The inspiration came from a picture of a Libyan paved street where we can read "THX NATO". This is visible from the sky by the NATO aircrews.

The tyres were kept separate from the model. They were primed

The darker parts were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71037 Black.





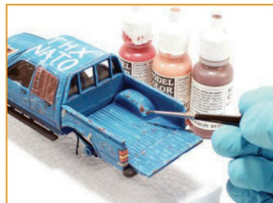
Once assembled, the entire pickup was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71004 Blue.

The paint was airbrushed in several thin layers in order to maintain the fine surface detail.

A coat of Vallejo Model Air 71089 Light Sea Blue came next. This colour was airbrushed over most raised areas.



"THX NATO" was applied by brush using several thin layers of Vallejo Model Air 71065 Steel. The rim was then masked and the tyre airbrushed again with Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black.



Small details were picked using different Vallejo Model Colour shades to add more realism to the model.



The inspiration came from a picture of a Libyan paved street where the words "THX NATO" were painted.

in Vallejo Grey Primer 74601 and then airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black. Once thoroughly dry, the rims were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71065 Steel. The rim was then masked and the tyre airbrushed again with Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black.

The front armour plate was scratch built from plastic card and painted in the new Libyan flag colours (N.B. - In fact, this flag is not new. It's the Monarchy Flag adopted from the beginning by the Libyan rebels). Small details and weathering was added, in the first stages, using Vallejo Model Colour.

The interior of the Burnt Out Modern Car was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71053 Dark Sea Grey.

Once completely dry, and before painting the exterior, the interior was masked in Tristar masking tape and MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Liquid Mask.

The exterior was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71001 White and then all the masking was removed. Some parts were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71083 Orange. Other parts were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71053 Dark Sea Grey.

The darker parts were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black.

The BJ-11 recoilless gun was primed in Vallejo Grey Primer 74601 and then airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian

Green. Zenital transformation was again achieved by airbrushing. The model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71006 Camouflage Light Green. This colour was airbrushed over the top and most raised spots. The more illuminated parts were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71009 Duck Egg Green. The back structure painted in Vallejo Model Air 71080 Rust.

#### WEATHERING AND FINISHING

The models received thousands of small scratches, applied with the help of a small sponge and a brand new ultra-fine brush. All the colours used were from the Vallejo Model Colour range. Once dry, the entire models received a well-thinned wash of MIG Productions' Dark Wash.

Smaller details were also picked out in MIG Productions 502 Abteilung oil colours. Their range is huge and ideal for all kinds of weathering and detail work.

The dusty look was achieved using MIG Productions' pigments. Several colours applied carefully should be used in order to deliver the most realistic look. The colours must be accurate and applied in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process otherwise our model will look gaudy and unrealistic.

The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer and Thinner for Washes. All we have to do is apply,

by brush, several drops over the pigments and leave them to dry without touching them. During this process, the models will turn very dark and it may seem that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

Several spots were treated in MIG Productions Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects.

MIG Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were applied in several spots. All those simple techniques combined really improve the models and help them look very realistic and accurate.

The sponge work was finished and refined with the help of a fine and brand new ultra fine brush.

The models received an overall wash in MIG Productions Standard

Rust Effects.

Then small details were picked in MIG Productions Dark Wash. Applied, mostly, in the recessed areas and around small details.

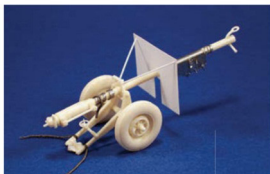
For the Burnt Out Car, a simple metal beam over the rooftop makes the model much more interesting and eye catching. Small details like this are simple to achieve and really improve any model.

#### BASE AND DIORAMA

I am a diorama builder and all of my projects start with several sketches. This step is very important because it will define the composition and the place of all the elements. The elements must be positioned in a dynamic way and according invisible diagonal lines. We must avoid placing elements parallel to the sides of the base at all costs. ▶



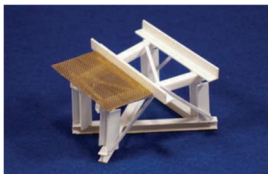
Details and clutter inside the vehicle will be visible through the open door of the pickup.



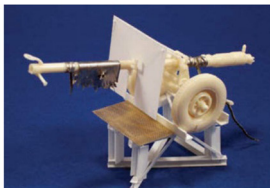
The recoilless BJ-II gun is from MIG Productions. This would need a metal structure to accommodate it.



The structure was built from plastic card profiles.



A small photo-etched mesh treadplate was also used. Everything was held in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Plastic Glue and Plastic Magic



Some of these extras included the new front shield, straps in lead foil and a trap that will be painted in the new Libya flag colours.



The gun itself was painted with Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian Green...



...and paler shades lent the shading effects.

◀ The next step is to transfer the idea and the sketch to the base. We really must spend as much time as necessary in this step. This is one of the most important steps of all and will define the final look of the entire scene.

As usual, I started with a wooden base and made the sidewalls from balsa wood. This forms a box and the bulk will add an extra touch of interest to the base and piece.

At this point we can define all kind of shapes. Balsa wood is very easy to cut and work with. All we have to do is mark the parts to remove, and then gently release them with the help of a scalpel.

The interior was filled with florist's foam. This foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work with. It is also lightweight and ideal to fill big volumes. Several layers of white glue were applied in order to give a robust bond and to protect the foam.

Several pieces of cork were randomly hand cut to represent the concrete ruins. Small pieces of metal mesh were then cut and glued into the cork.

The cork and metal mesh were covered in cheap acrylic grey putty diluted in water. Once completely covered, it was left to dry for about 24 hours. When thoroughly dry, the acrylic putty is very strong and has a very nice concrete texture. A cheap medium sized brush is best suited for this texturing task.

A layer of cork was glued over the florist's foam. Cork is very easy to work with, is cheap and most of all, is very resistant to all kind of weathering processes. It is also

very light and easy to find in most of Art and Craft stores.

Barro Humedo N.º 3 from Jaurema Art was applied all over the remaining florist foam. This acrylic paste will be the base soil and is also a protective layer for the florist's foam parts.

Several metal structures were scratch built in plastic card profiles. There were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic and their new Rocket Plastic Glue. Both solutions are ideal for capillary work and once dry they are completely invisible.

All the metal structures were primed in Vallejo UK Bronze Green Primer 73607 applied as usual in several layers.

The materials used in the ruin's debris were water, white glue, fine sand, small rocks and bricks from several companies. The debris was applied in consecutive layers and with the help of a coffee spoon.

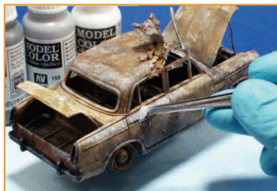
Vallejo Rust provided the base colour for the scratch built mount.



Weathering of the mount has been finished here.



The gun and the mount test fitted to the back of the pickup.



Weathering could now continue for the burnt out car.



The models received thousands of small scratches, applied with the help of a small sponge and a brand new ultra-fine brush.



Once completely dry, the entire model received a well-thinned coating of MIG Productions Dark Wash.

With the debris in place, white glue mixed with water was gently applied with the help of a syringe. Once all the spots were treated, I allowed the glue dry for about 48 hours. The white glue provides a strong bond and once well dry it is completely transparent. After 48 hours, all we have to do is remove the excess and, if necessary, add more debris and repeat the process. This is a very simple and effective way to reproduce ruins.

Even before painting, the ruins already look very natural and convincing. Several airbrush

sessions and pigments will do the rest.

The metal structures also received the usual zenith weathering treatment. In this case, several Vallejo Model Air colours were used: 71017 Russian Green, 71006 Camouflage Light Green and 71009 Duck Egg Green.

With the Burn Out Car already in its final place, several layers of well diluted of Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown were airbrushed over the road and ruins. Both ruins and road received several layers of pigments, fixed in place with the

help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer.

I searched the Internet for Libyan graffiti. The difficulty was not finding any, but choosing only one! It seems that the Internet is full of Libyan graffiti depicting Gaddafi.

Once the right one was chosen, all I had to do was paint it onto a ruined wall. This not only added a nice touch of realism to the scene but, most importantly of all, placed the diorama in a time and geographic window. It is also an eye catcher.

## FIGURES

The figures for this project also came from MIG Productions' catalogue. Despite the name of the set, Street Fighting Palestinians, these figures will be suitable for any modern Arab country. They may be used accurately in any diorama or scene from Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan... you name it! The resin casting is flawless and the detail very nice. The poses are natural and full of tension.

The guns were detailed with the help of lead foil from Neo Models glued in place with Deluxe ▶



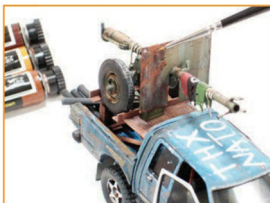
The improvised front armour plate was cut from plastic card and painted in the colour of the new Libyan flag.



Rust and weathering was achieved here using MIG oils.



Smaller details were also picked in MIG Productions 502 Abteilung oil colours



Several spots were treated in MIG Productions Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects.



The dusty look was achieved using MIG Productions' pigments. Several colours applied carefully must be used in order to deliver the most realistic look.



MIG Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were applied in several spots.



The figures for this project are MIG Productions' Street Fighting Palestinians, although they are suitable for many other applications, including this one!



Straps for the weapons were cut from lead foil.



The figures were painted in oil colours for the flesh areas and Vallejo Model Color for clothes, accessories and weapons.



The base started out as a series of drawings. The unique artwork was sourced from the Internet and painted onto the ruined brick wall with Vallejo acrylics.

Materials Rocket rapid glue.  
Both figures were primed in Vallejo Grey Primer 74601 and then airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71076 Skin Tone and 71074 Radome Tan. As usual, applied in well-thinned layers in order to keep the surface detail.  
The figures were painted in my usual fashion; oil colours for the flesh areas and Vallejo Model Color for clothes, accessories, guns...

#### CONCLUSION

This was a very interesting and refreshing project. My main interest in modelling is World War Two, but I am fast becoming a big enthusiast of depicting regional and local conflicts. I can happily say that this project, besides being a big challenge, was pure modelling fun. Thankfully, Gaddafi's long and brutal regime is forever finished and the Libyan people can now

begin again.

This diorama is dedicated, not only to the Libyan people, but to all the freedom fighters all over the world. ■

### Modelspec

#### Kits used

MIG Productions 1:35 scale Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux. Kit No. 35292  
MIG Productions 1:35 scale Burnt Out Modern Car. Kit No. 35263  
MIG Productions 1:35 scale Street Fighting Palestinians. Item No. 35317

#### Materials Used:

Hood glue, Deluxe Materials glue solutions, Florist foam, Wood base, Injected plastic, Resin parts, Plastic card, Metal parts

#### Paints & Finishing Products:

Vallejo primers, acrylics, washes, pigments, pastes and thinners  
MIG Productions oils, washes, filters and thinners  
Winsor & Newton oil colours and thinners  
Graphite soft pencil  
Aqua-plast - Robbiplast  
Fine sand  
Plus Model Lead Wire

#### References Used:

Several Internet sites and forums including Missing-Lynn [www.missing-lynn.com](http://www.missing-lynn.com)

- ✓ Lots of great stuff from MIG Productions - The Burnt Out Modern Car, Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux Veteran Warrior, figures...
- ✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

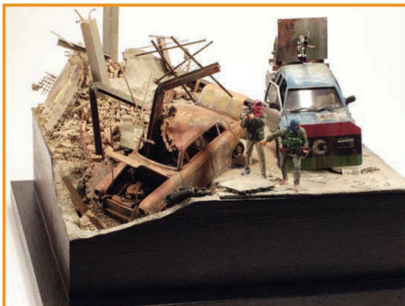
#### Available from

MIG Productions kits, accessories, figures and finishing products are available from Creative Models Limited [www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Rating ●●●●●●●●



The figures and vehicles tell a dramatic story.



The elements have been positioned in a dynamic way along invisible diagonal lines.

With the Burnt Out Car already in its final spot, several layers of well diluted of Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown were airbrushed over the road and ruins.



### June 17th

**MAFVA NATIONALS 2012**  
 The date has been determined for the vehicle show and thus the MAFVA nationals for next year: Sunday June 17th 2012 (Father's day). And more good news, we appear to have a marquee as well! More information will be available in coming issues.

### June 23rd

**Amay Modèles Club 19th Modelling Day.**  
 On 23 June 2012, Amay Modèles Club presents its 19th Modelling Day (exhibition and swap meet) at the IPES Huy, 6 Avenue Delchambre, B-4500 Huy (Belgium).  
 For further information, please contact Michel Calluy, 13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530 Villers-le-Bouillet (B). tel : 00 32 85 231086 e-mail: michel.calluy@skynet.be  
 All the details are available on our AMC Web site  
[www.amaymodelesclub.org](http://www.amaymodelesclub.org)

### July 1st

**IPMS Staffordshire Moorlands Model Show.**  
 IPMS Staffordshire Moorlands Model Club in association with 235 (City of Stoke on Trent) SQN A.T.C present their 3rd Model Show on Sunday 1 July 2012 to be held at the T.A Centre, Martin Leake House, Stonor Street (off Waterloo Road) Cobridge, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST6 3HJ  
 In support of Help For Heroes. There will be a open competition for Seniors & Juniors, separate competition for Air Cadets.

Ample free parking, licensed bar, refreshments available courtesy of the T.A  
 Admission: Adults £2.50  
 Children & Concessions £1.50  
 Doors open 10.00am to 4.30pm.  
 For further information contact John Lingwood (Show Manager) 01782 721463  
 Club website:  
<http://smmc.moonfruit.com> or  
 follow link on the IPMS website.

### July 7th-8th

**FIGURE WORLD 2012**  
 7th July 2012 SHOW  
 8th July PAINTATHON  
 The Great Hall, Oundle School, Oundle, PE8 4GH  
 The figure modelling show of the UK. If you are a figure modeller, don't miss out on the only event in the UK that has been put on to meet your needs.  
 For more information:  
[www.tbfigureworld.co.uk](http://www.tbfigureworld.co.uk)  
[www.tbforum.co.uk](http://www.tbforum.co.uk)

### July 14th

**AMPS Central South Carolina Model Show.**  
 The theme this year is 'Stranger in a Strange Land'  
 Our 2012 show and contest will be held on Saturday, 14 July from 9:00am until about 4:30 pm at the Gymnasium, 432 Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC.  
 This is the same great venue as last year. It's just on the northwest side of Columbia, SC and a couple of miles off of I-20.  
[ampscentralsouthcarolina.org](http://ampscentralsouthcarolina.org)

### August 19th

**LETCWORTH MODEL**

### SHOWCASE 2012

Letchworth Scale model club is proud to announce MODEL Showcase on Sunday 19th August 2012  
 Our new venue is The Broadway Hotel Ballroom, Letchworth, SG6 3NZ  
 (Next door to Morrisons Supermarket) less than a minute from Letchworth station. Ample parking at the venue and at the town centre carpark less than 3-4 mins away  
 Doors Open 10.00.  
 Trade stands, visiting clubs and demos, 20 class competitions. Wargames demos/participation games. And if you get peckish there is everything from a sandwich to a 4 course meal, and a bar for the non drivers  
 For Further info please contact Bob Parker 01480 891710 or email [robrenparker@sky.com](mailto:robrenparker@sky.com), or Frank Henson. 01462674020

### August 25th

The Edmonton International AFV Model Show, Open House & Military Vehicle Display.  
 The annual EIAFVMS will be held on August, 25th, 2012. The show will be held at HMCS Nonsuch, 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G-3E8, Canada.  
 Will have Military Artists: Ron Volstad and Robert Bailey, & vendors present.  
 Registration Sat : 09:00 til 12:00, show goes to 6pm.  
 ArmyMotors will be present to display historical Military Vehicles, with re enactors as well. Present Day Military vehicles and open house.

Contact for more info:

**ANTHONY SEWARDS:**  
[teutonicknights@shaw.ca](mailto:teutonicknights@shaw.ca)  
 Jon Baniak: [jonbaniak@shaw.ca](mailto:jonbaniak@shaw.ca)  
 Rod Dumouchel: [krdumouc@telus.net](mailto:krdumouc@telus.net)  
 Website: [www.aafvms.ca](http://www.aafvms.ca)  
 Facebook: Edmonton International AFV Show  
 Mailing Address: EIAFVMS - Po Box 71071, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E-6J8 CANADA

### September 8th-9th

**QMHE 2012, BRISBANE AUSTRALIA**  
 17th Anniversary 2012  
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 For further information or booking details contact Simon Fisher email: [simonfisher2008@btinternet.com](mailto:simonfisher2008@btinternet.com) or 07769 345271

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# M-1151 EAC

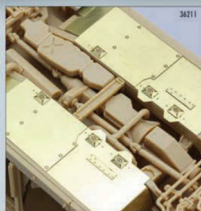
1/35 ACADEMY

JUNE RELEASE

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- 36211 M-1151 EAC underbody protection FRAG2
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# WINTER COMBAT

**Gary Edmundson** adds TANK crew figures and experiments with hairspray weathering on his 1:35 scale Cyberhobby Panzerbefehlswagen III Ausf.



# WAND



Cyberhobby's release of the command version of the 1:35 scale Panzer III Ausf. J kit adds a few more sprues to Dragon's newer, retooled line of kits based on the Panzer III chassis. The Panzerbefehlswagen Ausführung III J maintained a 5cm L/42 main tank gun, but had reduced ammunition storage and replaced the hull machine gun with a pistol port in order to allow more room for the extra radio equipment.

This model was built to represent vehicle "555" used by the II./SS Panzer-Regiment 1 "Leibstandarte" during the advance into Kharkov in early 1943.

## CONSTRUCTION

What was supposed to be a fairly relaxing "out-of-the-box" build did have its share of challenges. The hull tub had to have some locating tabs removed from the upper edges of the sides (not covered in the instructions) and the front right fender support bracket is not correctly labelled in Step 1.

I failed to open up some locating holes for one of the antennae on the hull side before cementing it all

together, and ended up having to eyeball the location later.

Putting together the cupola in too much haste had me placing one of the vision blocks incorrectly, unfortunately making a right mess of the parts when I tried to correct it. A spare had to be liberated from an un-built DML Pz III kit, which will have to wait until spare parts can be obtained before it ever gets built!

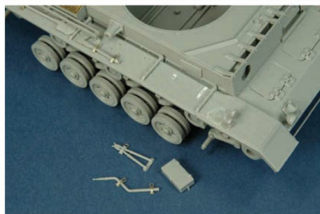
After piecing together the running gear, 98 links of track were cemented together in two separate sections per side. This allowed the track sections to be removed for painting later. They were placed on the temporarily assembled running gear and allowed to set in a pattern showing some sag over the return rollers. I will add at this point that after the running gear and track sections were painted, attempting to place the tracks back over the wheels made for a tight fit indeed. An extra link did have to be added to make things fit better.

Several photos of this particular vehicle in Jean Restayn's book "The Battle of Kharkov" show an improvised stowage box mounted

Early in the building process, TANK's resin figures were adapted to the turret of the Panzer III Ausf. J by repositioning the arms of the crew members sitting in the side hatches



Aber's photo-etched tool clasps were used to enhance the detail of the model. Some tool stowage had to be moved in retrospect to accommodate features noticed in wartime photos of the real vehicle



A stowage box mounted on the right fender was built from styrene sheet, with an Aber hasp and bolt detail salvaged from unused kit parts.





The kit's radio antennae were further trimmed down with an Xacto #11 blade and sandpaper. The supplied parts were a bit too thick to look very convincing.

Karaya's copper tow cable substituted the one from the kit. Cable ends were trimmed and drilled out, and attached using cyano glue.

on the front of the right fender. After discovering this well into the build, the standard tool stowage was removed from this area and a box was built using small scraps of sheet styrene.

I trimmed off the moulded-on tool clasps and substituted with Aber's photo-etched versions. Since photos showed one of the tow cables wrapped around the rear antenna mount, I made one from 170mm of an appropriately sized Karaya copper cable and glued on the kit's cable ends.

The crow's foot antenna (part MB-1 but mislabelled MC-1 in the instructions) was a very tricky piece to bend and position on top of its aerial mast. Small amounts of cyano glue and the help of small copper soldering clips held with a mechanical "helping-hands" device completed this task.

## FIGURES

I wanted to incorporate a set of TANK (from Russia) resin figures that were designed for the slightly larger Panzer IV turret. Getting them to sit properly in the turret hatches involved repositioning the arms of the two fellows in the side hatches. The resulting gaps around their shoulders were filled with Aves epoxy putty. The crew member in the left hatch was holding the grab-handle of the turret top, and the kit handle was replaced with brass rod placed

fairly deeply into pre-drilled holes to give it some strength.

## PAINTING

I have debated the base colour of most of the Leibstandarte vehicles in Kharkov for many years with fellow modellers. This particular vehicle (and many similar Panzer IVs) has often been portrayed in some artwork as having a Panzer Grey finish with whitewash over top. Tell-tale clues in the wartime photos such as the tone of the surrounding crew uniforms and skin colour, along with differences in tone with items that are obviously black (like vision blocks) convince me that the base colour was not dark grey

at all, but possibly dark yellow. More evidence has surfaced in recent years to suggest that these vehicles were base painted in the sand-brown tropical scheme used in the DAK, but delivered too late to have been sent down there.

Since the vehicle was whitewashed for the time of service depicted, this gave an opportunity to try a popular technique to simulate a worn, weathered winter scheme. Having tried a method using dissolved hairspray to finish a previous project, I was anxious to test it on a battle tank.

The hull, turret and running gear were painted separately. All sub-assemblies were pre-shaded using

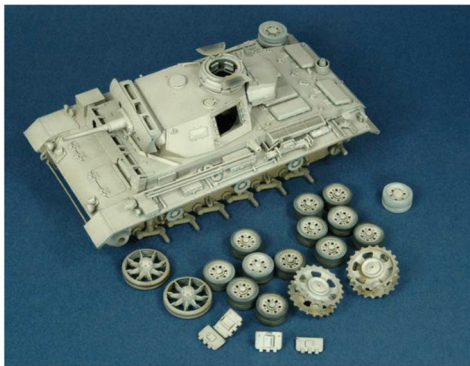
Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black acrylic. This was over coated by lightly spraying on Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow, allowing the dark base coat to act as shadow. Details such as tool stowage and rubber tires were painted next using Vallejo acrylics. The model was then sprayed with Future floor acrylic to protect the base colours and prepare the surface for decal application. The only two decals used on the hull were the national cross on the rear, and the "key & shield" insignia on the front armoured plate, for the Leibstandarte division. The outlined "555" was also placed on the back of the turret bin at this time. The sides of the turret received numbers in a later step.



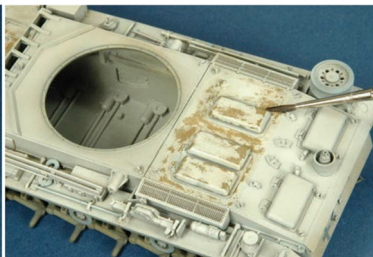
The model was given a pre-shade of Tamiya's XF-1 Flat Black. The running gear and turret were all painted separately.

To help along the painting process, a wooden handle was used to hold the model by screwing it into the lower hull. Tamiya's XF-59 Desert Yellow is being applied to the hull in a light spray, allowing the black pre-shade to show through.

After painting on the base colour of Desert Yellow, all the details were then added using Vallejo acrylic and the finish sealed with Future floor acrylic. Decals were then applied, and after a further sealing with Future, the model was airbrushed with acrylic flat spray decanted from the can.



Two coats of the hair spray was applied, and after drying the model was then given a light coat of Tamiya's XF-2 Flat White, which had been toned down with a bit of XF-57 Buff.



Applying a damp brush to the surface of the model, water dissolved the underlying hair spray, and the paint was lifted in a pattern indicative of wear and tear of the elements.

## HAIRSPRAY

After giving the decals a protective coat of Future floor finish, it was ready for the acrylic based hairspray to be misted on. A can of hairspray was decanted into the colour cup dispenser of the airbrush, and sprayed on in a couple of coats over the glossy protective layer of the model. When this had sufficiently dried, Tamiya XF-2 Flat White had some XF-57 Buff added to it to tone down the brightness, and then it was airbrushed thinly over the hairspray.

By scrubbing the white acrylic with a damp brush, it soaks through the paint and dissolves the hairspray layer and essentially lifts the paint off in small fractured pieces. By controlling how much water is used, and how long the water is left to soak, and how hard a scrubbing is given, the weathered look to the surface develops. Small sections of the model were managed over the period of a few evenings of free time. For some reason I wasn't able to lift enough of the "whitewash" from the mudflaps, which could have meant that the layer of hairspray had not been enough in that area. Some of the whitewash was left on the sides of the tires since it would

have been applied there as well.

After deciding that enough of the whitewash had been removed, the resulting finish was protected with another layer of Future floor acrylic.

It was now the time to add the numbers to the side of the turret. The numbers "555" were painted on the left and right hand sides, but I don't believe that were red as the decal sheet provides. My guess was that they were painted on as a white outline - as on the rear of the storage bin, thus leaving the inside colour to be desert yellow. Since I don't trust the steadiness of my hand, I used the red decals as a guide, and painted the base colour over them with a mix of Vallejo acrylics and a small brush.

With the model still sporting a gloss finish, I added a wash of dark brown oil paints thinned with mineral spirits to define some of the kit's minute details, and further enhance some of the shadows. Again, this had to be applied to small areas over the course of a few evenings since it's a tedious, time consuming effort to make sure all of the details are covered, and there are no noticeable "tide" marks where the solvent has carried the oil paint and dried leaving an unnatural puddle of colour.



It took a few evenings of free time to work at the weathering technique to complete all components and sub-assemblies of the build.

Mixing up a dirt colour using heavily thinned Tamiya acrylics, I airbrushed the model keeping the focus on the lower and rear areas. Although this vehicle carried a winter whitewash, it was subject to as much dirt and dust as any other time of year because of the freeze/thaw conditions of the local climate.

## PASTEL POWDERS

Dirt coloured pastel powder was made by grinding a few different coloured chalk sticks on sandpaper and combining them in an aluminium pan. Green and Yellow Ochre, Raw and Burnt

Umber, Raw Sienna, and Grey can be mixed up into various shades to resemble the terrain colour. Holding the hull on its side, the powder was piled on the lower hull in areas that would accumulate muck and dirt. A brush soaked with Tamiya's acrylic thinner was touched to the powder, but just enough to allow the liquid to dampen the mounds of dirt without disturbing their sit. After drying, the effect generated clumps of dried random muck which was then adhered to the model. An additional dusting of the same powdered pastel chalk blended out any tide marks. ▶



The turret side numbers were applied using the kit decals as a guide. I painted over these using Vallejo acrylics to match the base colour of the vehicle, not being too careful with the lines since the application of winter white wash would have been a bit sloppy anyway.



To simulate the build-up of dirt on the kit's running gear, ground pastel chalks were liberally piled onto the lower regions of the kit, and Tamiya's acrylic thinner was allowed to soak into it.



With the pastel clumps adhered to the model, additional pastel powder was dusted into place to blend the look.



The resin crew from TANK were painted using acrylics for the uniforms, and oil paints for the faces.

### PAINTING THE TRACKS

The track sections were airbrushed with Floquil's Grimy Black as a base coat. I venture away from acrylics when base-coating the tracks since the Tamiya acrylics used to weather them will damage it - essentially wipe it off. Taking the same dirt-coloured pastel powder as previously mentioned, I mixed in some Tamiya acrylic thinner and spread the mixture liberally onto the track runs. After this dries, the track sections are drybrushed with a "metaliser" mixture of silver enamel paint (I use Testors) toned down with a touch of raw umber oil paint. The mix is "dry brushed" on with an old stipple brush after most of the silver enamel mix has been rubbed off the brush onto a piece of cardboard. The highlights of the track sections are "metalised" with the paint-highlighting the guide horns, track faces, and the path

that the rubber road wheels would wear smooth.

Attaching the painted track sections onto the running gear involved a bit of force to try and get the pre-glued lengths to contact the wheels in the right locations - there is some dimensional shift when all of the components are fitted before painting. As previously mentioned - an extra track link was added to the run to get it all to fit. The assembly was helped with cyano glue and copper soldering clips to hold the tracks in place.

### FINAL TOUCHES

The model was coated with a flat finish by airbrushing a thinned mixture of Vallejo acrylic Matt Medium thinned with a few drops of tap water. I've found this product works best to give a dead flat finish. A few small paint chips were added to various areas of the tank



As a final painting step, the entire model was airbrushed with Vallejo's Matt Medium, thinned with a few drops of tap water.



After the white wash was removed, all components were sealed with Future floor acrylic. Kit detail was washed with dark brown oil paint diluted with mineral spirit.

The grab handle on the top left side of the turret was replaced with one made from brass rod, giving support to the resin figure hanging from it in the side hatch.





to show some wear and tear in the high traffic areas. Thinned Vallejo dark grey was painted on with a very fine 000 brush on the edges of the hatches and engine deck.

#### FIGURES

The three resin figures were from TANK and cost me an arm and a leg at a local hobby shop; but the poses were unique, well sculpted, and made for a very appropriate winter setting to match the vehicle's camouflage scheme so they were worth the expense.

I painted the uniforms and heads separately.

The components were mounted on toothpicks and the head painted with oil paints, and the uniforms (overcoats) with acrylics.

A dark brown base was airbrushed onto the overcoats as a pre-shadow, and Tamiya's XF-65 Field Grey was lightly misted over this. Highlights were added using various mixtures of Vallejo acrylics including Olive Grey, English Uniform Brown, Off White and Medium Grey. Details were also added using the Vallejo acrylics since they flow very well when thinned with water and applied with a 000 brush.

The faces were first primed with Tamiya's XF-15 Flesh mixed with a bit of XF-59 Desert Yellow. Raw Umber, Burnt Sienna and White oil paint by Winsor & Newton was used to create the flesh tones along with shadows and highlights. Some red was also blended in to add some rosinose to the cheeks and lips, and then a small amount of Payne's Grey was stippled around the chin areas to give a weary looking "five-o'clock shadow".

The lower areas of the model were airbrushed with a very dilute "dirt" colour made from Tamiya acrylics.



#### SUMMARY

From start to finish this model took me about a year to complete. I did set it aside to work on other projects during that time, but returned occasionally as time allowed for the various steps to be carried out. Although a fairly straightforward build, the process of painting and weathering was an arduous task. Fitting the figures in place and also painting them was also a fair bit of work, considering I repainted the faces about three times until I was satisfied with the results. Taken in segmented steps, it was quite rewarding to complete a model of a subject I've wanted to do for a number of years. ■

#### Models spec

Cyberhobby 1:35 scale Pt.Bel.Mil.III Aus. J. Kit No. 6544

#### Accessories Used:

TANK 1:35 scale Panzer IV Crew. Item No. XXX

#### Paints & Finishing Products:

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-15 Flat Flesh; XF-57 Buff; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-65 Field Grey  
Tamiya Acrylic: Thinner  
Vallejo Acrylics: Matt Medium; Dark Grey; Olive Grey; English Uniform Brown; Off White; Medium Grey  
Pastel Chalks: Green; Yellow Ochre; Raw and Burnt Umber; Raw Sienna; Grey  
Fioquill Enamel: Grimy Black  
Testor's Metalizer: Silver  
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints: Raw Umber; Burnt Sienna; White; Red; Payne's Grey.

✓ Excellent detail; generally good fit; nice to have this variant.

✗ Instructions are misleading in places.

#### Available from

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Rating ●●●●●●●○



# Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

## DRAGON

**1:35 SCALE  
GERMAN  
FIGHTING  
ELITE IN THE  
EAST**

**ITEM NO. 6692**

One of the latest releases from Dragon is a set of four figures that isn't aimed at any particular campaign but, going

by the assortment of uniforms and the word East in the title, it is fair to say they will be appropriate from Operation Barbarossa in 1941 onward. In the box you have a solitary Wehrmacht Panzer Officer and three SS infantrymen in uniforms typical of the early part of the invasion of Russia. The tankerman wears the typical Panzer outfit of short tunic and black trousers, the infantrymen are in the Field Grey M36 or M40 pattern tunic and trousers with two of them wearing the first type of reversible camouflage smocks and covered helmets.

Apart from the personal equipment and weapons on the figure sprue, the other bits included are from the older 'Gen 2' range but still scrub up nicely. Again, the MG42, MP44 and Gewehr 43 can go into the spares box as these are from the later war period. Going back to the weapons on the figure sprue, two flare pistols are there, one opened for reloading and a Mauser C-96 'Broom handle' pistol complete with holster.

As with all Dragon figures they are nicely moulded but with the usual mould seams present although these are easily removed with a sharp blade. The level of detail is again very good and the facial features are well sculpted. The poses are fairly relaxed too.

Assembly and the somewhat limited painting instructions are on the back of the box but the artwork on the front is ideal reference for finishing the figures anyway. As usual, Mr Hobby Colour and Testor Model Master are the paint ranges referred to.

I like this set from Dragon because the figures would work individually or together in a diorama; as it wouldn't be hard to change the Wehrmacht Panzer Officer to one from an SS unit.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)  
**Andy King**



## DRAGON

**1:35 SCALE OPERATION  
TYPHOON 1941**

**ITEM NO. 6735**

Operation Typhoon was the code-name for an assault on Moscow in October 1941 with the 3rd and 4th Panzer Armies attacking to the North, the 2nd Panzer Army to the South and the 4th Army advancing from the west. After a successful start that saw over 600,000 Soviet troops caught in a pocket around the towns of Vyazma and Bryansk, by mid-October the rain had reduced the German advance to a virtual standstill with the notorious Russian mud churned up by their armoured vehicles. With the onset of winter, conditions worsened even more and the campaign was over by January 1942. The Soviets had managed to push back German forces over 100 km (62 miles). In fact the closest the Germans got to Moscow was to see it through binoculars.

This set from Dragon features two figures from the Wehrmacht and two from the SS in typical winter garb for the period. Inside the box you have four sprues, three of which are Dragon 'Gen 2' personal gear and weapons, although the MG 42, MP 44 and Gewehr 43 included are not applicable to this period and a small paper sheet with two maps. The figures are well moulded with only moderate raised seams to deal with, although on a couple of figures there are die-lines that will benefit from a coat of Mr Surfacer or similar. As you would expect, all feature winter uniform. Figure 'A' is an SS officer wearing cavalry breeches and a sheepskin coat with fur collar, figure 'B' is an infantryman with a sheepskin greatcoat. He also has leather and felt overboots. Figures 'C' and 'D' both have field grey greatcoats with the SS infantryman wearing the early pattern camouflage smock over the top.

The uniform details are well rendered, particularly the fur collars and the faces are nicely sculpted too. The personal equipment and weapons are from earlier sets and a few years old now but they still stand up well. As with all Dragon figure sets assembly and painting instructions are on the back of the box and colour callouts are from the Mr Hobby and Model Master paint ranges. If you want German soldiers in a variety of winter uniform then this set is ideal however, with the mix of Waffen-SS and Wehrmacht plus the way the figures are posed, they are more suited to individual scenarios rather than together as a group. Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)  
**Andy King**



## MASTER BOX

1:35 SCALE

**COLD WIND. GERMAN INFANTRY 1941-1942 ITEM NO. MB35103**

**GERMAN INFANTRY WESTERN EUROPE 1944-1945 ITEM NO. MB3584**

**US MARINES IN JUNGLE WWII ERA ITEM NO. MB3589**

As someone once said: "You must work hard to get on top, but you must work even harder to stay on top". In fact, this looks like the motto for Master Box from Ukraine. This company is fast becoming "the name" when it comes to injected plastic figures.

Their sets, besides the good quality, are well diversified and released on a very regular schedule.

Once again, all the box arts are signed by A. Karaschuk and the sculpting by A. Gagarin.

The set "Cold Wind" comprises two sprues and is a set about five figures. The poses look natural and they are anatomically accurate. The subject is German Infantry on the Eastern Front around 1941-1942, but they can be used in late war scenarios without any problem. The set also offers a nicely diverse range of weapons and personal gear.

The second set is also German Infantry, this time in the Western Europe, around 1944-45. The set comprises four figures and like the previous set it looks nice and accurate. Besides the Western Front, they can also be used in the Eastern Front.

The third set, "US Marines in Jungle" is a more than welcome set and comprises four US Marines in a patrol mission in a tropical jungle in the PTO. Once again, the poses are very natural and the weapons and accessories well diversified.

The details are very nice and the casting almost flawless in all three sets. All that is necessary is to remove some minor flash.

Assembly and painting instructions are found on the back of the box quoting Vallejo Acrylics.

In conclusion, these new sets from Master Box are absolutely great. Recommend without reservation.

Thanks to Master Box for the review sample [www.mbltd.info](http://www.mbltd.info)  
Master Box products are available online from Creative Models Limited  
[www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Jose Brito



## EVOLUTION MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE

**SS OFFICER ITEM NO. EM-35051**

**SS SCHWIMMWAGEN CREW ITEM NO. EM-35053**

Evolution Miniatures' range of figures continues to expand and improve with these new sets sent in for review. The sets come very well packaged with a photo of the finished painted figure/s on the cover, and are beautifully sculpted and produced.

Set EM-35051 is simply titled "SS Officer" and comprises separate arms and two choices of headgear; helmet with camouflage cover, or as depicted on the box art, an officer's cap. The standard of casting is first class, with absolutely no blemishes or air bubbles to worry about, and the fit of parts is spot on – a wipe of putty where the arms join the body and that's about it. The figure is cast in a very user-friendly shade of grey, which shows up the quite stunning detail very well. It's also a soft resin, which makes it easy to remove the casting blocks and clean up any residual flash, of which there was only a minor amount.

The figure is depicted in the act of popping a new magazine onto his MP-38, and the facial expression is one of both urgency and defiance. All parts locate perfectly, and even the barrel of the MP-38 has been cast dead straight.

Set EM-35053 is titled "SS Schwimmwagen Crew" and comprises two figures attired in cold weather gear and looking suitably miserable. These chaps have been designed to fit the Tamiya kit of the Schwimmwagen (which they do), with the steering wheel cast integrally onto the hands of the driver figure which fits the kit perfectly. Just the usual casting blocks to remove and that's it.

These sets from Evolution Miniatures are brilliant, and I can't wait to get my hands on more of them.

Highly Recommended.  
Thanks to Evolution Miniatures for the sample [www.evolutionminiatures.com](http://www.evolutionminiatures.com)

Bill Wiseman





## REVELL

**1:35 SCALE  
HENSCHEL TYP 33D1 TRUCK  
KIT NO. 03098**

In co-operation with ICM, Revell has added this 1:35 scale Henschel Typ 33D1 Truck to their range. It contains approximately 320 tan-coloured plastic parts on 6 sprues, along with a further sprue with 10 clear plastic parts for the windows and lights. Moulding is clean and crisp throughout with no flash at all present on my example. It does not have the finesse of a Dragon or Bronco kit, but what we have is still very good.

All of the large parts such as the cargo bed, fenders, bonnet sidewalls and doors do unfortunately have ejector pin marks on their inner faces. The cargo bed parts are affected the worst – some of these blemishes will be hidden but the rest will have to be filled and sanded. There is no wood grain effect on these parts so no detail will be lost when you have to deal with the pin marks.

The instructions comprise a healthy 88 steps but they are well drawn and clear to interpret. You start off naturally with the chassis and, as all of this comes as multi-part assembly, care will be needed to get it all straight and true. A Tamiya truck this is not. A nicely detailed engine is provided to go under the bonnet, and the steering and rear wheels can be made poseable.

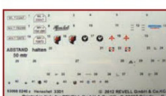
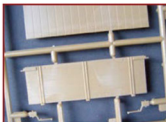
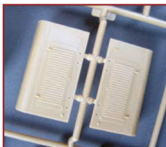
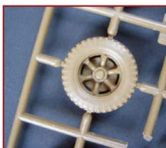
Turning to the cab, we have some lovely detail here and separate decals are provided for the dial faces. No driver figure is provided, but it should not be too hard to find a suitable one. The cargo bed is large and spacious and, whilst no cargo is provided, a well stocked spares box can fill the gaps.

Markings are provided for 3 vehicles, one Afrika Korps, one Luftwaffe unit and one Pioneer battalion vehicle. The decals are clear and in register. Some are actually quite colourful!

Revell class this model as Skill Level 5, the highest in their range, and I can see why this is due to the parts count and instructions. What you get in the box will make into a very detailed kit with care. Highly Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For further information visit [www.revell.eu](http://www.revell.eu)

Graham Tetley



## CASTOFF

**1:35 SCALE  
UP-ARMOURED SCIMITAR LEP CONVERSION  
ITEM NO. CR030**

After a prolonged break, resin manufacturer Cast-Off Models is back in the market.

Their first new release is a 1:35 scale up-armoured Scimitar LEP, as seen in Iraq, for the AFV Club Scimitar.

The British Scimitar fleet was upgraded in recent years with a Life Extension Programme that replaced the original Jaguar engines with a Cummins 5.9 litre turbo diesel engine. This resulted in a radical redesign of the front deck and other detail changes.

A number of Scimitars have also been upgraded with the Pisan Sasa up-armour package from Israel, making them more suitable for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Castoff's up-armoured Scimitar LEP conversion comprises 44 parts in pale grey-green resin and includes a full upper hull and replacement turret. The additional parts include stowage bins, smaller details and the all-important and quite unique perforated armour. This armour is not mesh, but sheet metal with small holes.

The casting quality is good and the conversion itself should be quite straightforward after the parts are cleaned up.

Some of the perforated armour is cast to stowage boxes, and others are provided in separate sections. A few of the pieces cast to the boxes were broken in my sample, as the delicate protrusions rattled around in the same bag as larger chunks of resin.

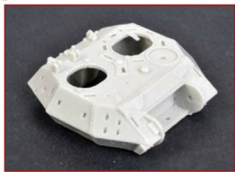
The armour is very well done though, capturing the perforated appearance of the real thing. The delicate armour sheets are covered by a very thin layer of resin flash on the rear, so some time and patience will be required to drill out the individual holes (I don't think the parts will be rigid enough to withstand sanding).

The production conversion should include the lower hull too, but this was not supplied with my early sample.

This is an impressive return from Castoff, and the conversion will certainly transform the appearance of your AFV Club Scimitar. Recommended.

Thanks to Cast-Off Models website [www.castoff-models.co.uk](http://www.castoff-models.co.uk)

Brett Green





## DEF. MODEL

1:35 SCALE

### REPLACEMENT RESIN WHEEL SETS

LTD 'WOLF' G90 WHEEL SET. ITEM NO. DW35007

LTD 'WOLF' W.M.I.K. MICH 235 WHEEL SET. ITEM NO. DW35008

US HMMWV MT/V WHEEL SET. ITEM NO. DW35032

BUSHMASTER WHEEL SET. ITEM NO. DW35024

Wheels have traditionally been a great source of frustration for many modellers, as most lacked detail or variation in tread pattern. Worse still, the inclusion of vinyl or rubber tyres in some kits made removing mould lines an almost impossible task. In extreme cases, the tyre itself had a tendency to split over time as the source material would dry out. Great strides have been made over recent years with the likes of Dragon and Bronco including multi piece plastic wheels to accurately portray tread detail. Wheels and tyres however, come in lots of different sizes and shapes and this is where aftermarket wheel options come into play. Def. Model is fast becoming one of the premier replacement wheel manufacturers. Not only do they

offer a great product but they also include a set of wheel masks for each replacement wheel set they sell. Four 1:35 scale wheel sets have been sent to us to review and they are:

- LTD 'Wolf' G90 Wheel Set Item number DW35007
- LTD 'Wolf' W.M.I.K. Mich 235 Wheel Set Item number DW35008
- US HMMWV MT/V Wheel Set Item number DW35032
- Bushmaster Wheel Set Item number DW35024

All of these sets have some very fine flash and a medium sized casting plug on each wheel. These wheels, unlike many others, are not direct resin reproductions of the wheels they replace but

rather and entirely new wheel. The detail on all the wheels presented for review is outstanding with finely rendered sidewall and tread detail in evidence on all examples. The wheels themselves are "sagged" for want of a better term, what this basically means is, that each wheel has a flat spot on it where the wheel surface meets the ground. The effect, is both subtle and very well done with an, ever so slight bulge on each contact point. The inclusion of a wheel mask set in each set is welcome and really set these sets apart from the rest. All sets come Highly Recommended. Thanks to Def. Model for the samples [www.defmodel.com](http://www.defmodel.com)

Luke Pitt



## YOUR SCALE MODEL KITS

1:35 SCALE

### WHEELS 7.5-20 N.D.T. TREAD PATTERN

ITEM NO. DS35001

There is certainly no shortage of companies producing replacement wheels for 1:35 scale models, and Your Scale Model Kits is one of the newest on the block. This burgeoning mini-industry has resulted from the trend of many model manufacturers to include vinyl tyres in their kits. For many modellers (myself included) vinyl is not the ideal medium. It does not always take paint and weathering well, it can be temperamental to glue and it is difficult to cleanly remove typical raised circumferential seams. Resin wheels are a better option in most cases.

This release from Your Scale Model Kits offers a generous twelve 1:35 scale truck wheels that will be suitable for ICM's Studebaker, Italeri's Lend-Lease US Truck, Tamiya's Deuce and a Half, and Heller's GMC Pompiers and CCKW 353 kits. The twelve wheels will be enough to cover at least one model plus a couple of spares.

Casting is good and detail crisp. There are no casting blocks to clean up – just a little fine flash between the lightening holes on the wheel hubs. One set of tyres is labelled Good Year, and the other Firestone.

Six separate brake drums/wheel mounts are also supplied on a thin wafer of resin. These feature raised bolt detail so they may be displayed on the truck without the wheel. They may also be customised to fit whatever model you are working on.

Your Scale's wheels will be a welcome replacement for a good selection of 1:35 scale American trucks.

Recommended.

Thanks to Your Scale Model Kits for the sample [www.yourscale.com.au](http://www.yourscale.com.au)

Brett Green



## DEF. MODEL

### 1:35 SCALE SCHWIMMWAGEN WIDE WHEELS -

SAGGED (CONTINENTAL) • ITEM NO. DW30001

Def. Model has also sent their wide Schwimmwagen resin replacement wheels for review. These are perfectly cast and come subtly flattened and bulged. The small casting point is attached to the bottom of the flat spot, so it won't scar any visible part of the very crisp raised tread pattern.

The unique shapes of the Tamiya locating holes are cast onto the backs of the wheel hubs.

A spare tyre is also supplied. Self-adhesive painting masks are included for all five wheels – a nice touch. Def. Model's Schwimmwagen wheels will be a simple but very effective upgrade to the excellent Tamiya kit. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Def. Model for the samples [www.defmodel.com](http://www.defmodel.com)

Brett Green





## Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



### ZVEZDA 1:72 SCALE SOVIET PARATROOPERS 1941-43 ITEM NO. 6138

The Russian manufacturer Zvezda is continuing to produce their small sets of 1:72 scale figures, this time with four Soviet Paratroopers from the mid-war period. The set consists of a single sprue of dark green styrene, together with a basic assembly instruction sheet and an 'Art of Tactic' game card. These sets are aimed at wargamers, but the quality is certainly good enough for use with display models and dioramas. There are no formal painting instructions, but the box artwork is very good and gives adequate reference for producing accurate figures.

The sculpting is very good and the poses are lifelike if a little static, particularly the standing officer figure. Detailing again is excellent, particularly the PPSH sub-machine guns and the Degtyareva light MG. The addition of some straps would finish these off nicely. All four figures are wearing one-piece olive green jump-suits with the two kneeling figures wearing flying helmets and goggles, and the prone and standing figures wearing side caps. There are four individual bases and one combined base included for use in wargaming, but these figures would look good with vehicles, etc. in vignettes or dioramas.

Although they are sold as snap-together sets, the standard styrene cements work well with these kits, and any joints should be filled before priming and painting.

Highly Recommended.  
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample  
[www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)  
Steve Shrimpton



### ZVEZDA 1:72 SCALE SOVIET 85MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN 52-K ITEM NO. 6148

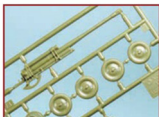
Zvezda has come up with another useful kit in their 'Snap Together' line, the Soviet equivalent of the famous German 8.8cm AA gun. Although aimed at the wargaming market using the supplied base, the kit includes parts to build a freestanding model for display. The 52-K was designed in 1939 as an upgrade on the existing 76.2 mm model 1938 and was supplied with anti-tank ammunition as well as anti-aircraft. It was produced throughout WWII and could be found in use in many countries well into the 1960s and 1970s.

The kit comprises two sprues of dark green styrene packed in a small end-opening box together with an instruction sheet and a gaming card. There are no decals and no painting guide, although the paint scheme would be overall Russian green.

The moulding is good with no flash and minor mould seams. The parts breakdown appears to be well thought out and although a simple kit, it should build into a reasonable model. With some extra detailing a fine display model is possible, dealing with such areas as the drilling out of the muzzle brake (the baffles could be tricky!), and adding the 5 holes in the stabiliser pads.

One major disappointment with the kit is the fact that gun cannot be modelled in the towing position as the outriggers are moulded on to the chassis in the firing position. The crew is well sculpted and with careful painting should work well with the finished model, particularly in a diorama setting.

Recommended.  
Thanks to The Hobby Company for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)  
Steve Shrimpton



## VERLINDEN

### 1:72 SCALE BREAKTHROUGH DIORAMA ITEM NO. 2075

Verlinden has produced this nice little diorama base in 1:72 scale, designed for a tank. It has the ruins of a building that the tank will sit under as may be seen in their box art.

The walls have nice detail on the front showing the stucco coating along with the stonework and areas of bricks where the stucco has been knocked off. There is no detail on the backs of the walls, so this diorama is only meant to be seen from the one side. Detailed painting will really make the areas of the walls come to life, one thing that would really help the look of the walls is to replicate damage caused by rifle/machine gunfire, that is kind of lacking for a building that has seen this much battle damage.

The base is a painter's dream and measures 5 1/4" by 5 1/4". Tank tracks are moulded into the base. This is a nice touch, but that also means your tank would only be sitting in that one direction. There are a number of finely detailed broken window frames scattered among the rubble, some small boxes, a couple small and a couple larger wooden crates, a number of barrels, as well as parts of brick walls as well as individual bricks and other bits of rubble. The barrels looked to be in good condition to have gone through that much battle damage, that shouldn't be too hard to put some dents in with a file. The wooden crates also look in really good condition, also shouldn't be hard to put in a little damage with a file and/or knife. There is also a fine coating of what looks to be a heavy dust over a lot of the base, it really conveys the feeling of a heavy battle.

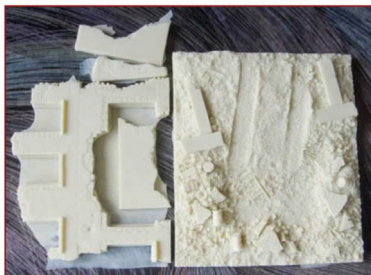
The resin is a light tan and relatively firm. There is very little flash, and what there is comes off easily with a knife. Some of it around some of the window openings is slightly thicker, that will take either a little scribbling with the back of a knife blade or a fine saw. I didn't test fit the walls to the base yet, there are flat areas where the walls go, if it isn't a tight fit, it would take very little work with a sanding stick to make it that way.

This little diorama is nice, and detailed enough that it would look good on its own or with some figures possibly stationed behind the walls giving covering fire to some figures on the run. It was designed for a tank and I believe that is where it would look best and have the most dramatic impact. I am very happy with the purchase and believe it was definitely worth the money.

Recommended.

Verlinden products are available online from their website [www.verlindenonline.com](http://www.verlindenonline.com)

Brad Hagen



New 172-35 scale figures from CMK

 <b>F35220</b> Israeli soldier road patrol Lebanon 2006 (1 figure) <b>1/35</b>	 <b>F35225</b> Soviet soldier with Machinegun (1 figure) <b>1/35</b>
 <b>F35219</b> Israeli soldier with mine Lebanon 2006 (1 figure) <b>1/35</b>	 <b>F35224</b> Soviet Nurse Treating German Soldier (2 figures) <b>1/35</b>
 <b>F72228</b> German panzer crew sitting (3 figures) <b>1/72</b>	 <b>F35223</b> Wehrmacht Soldier Shaving (1 figure) <b>1/35</b>

  
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# SLOW DOWN, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST

**L**ike many of you, I suffer from a debilitating condition called slowness.

Unfortunately, in this modern high speed society, slowness essentially amounts to a crime. If you read any modelling article you may be lead to the conclusion that all of these guys whip these models out in a weekend sitting. Everything, it seems, is expected to be done super fast, from assembly to painting and if we can't keep up the inference is there's a degree of cerebral thickness to contend with.

Here's how it works. Slow modellers time frames are essentially different. A safe rule of thumb is add 60. A fast modeller's few minutes results in me adding 60 minutes or more. An hour or two may take me a whole afternoon!

As a general rule, slow modellers don't multitask or, if we do, the different sequences happen so slowly that it is hard to notice that we are doing anything at all.

Not that I really care. This brash insistence on speed is often no more than an acceptable way to convey impatience.

On a different but related note, road and shopping trolley rage are just two by-products of this angry emotion let loose. I mean really, if you want a kit done fast just buy a completed die cast model!

Some of the best things in life can come about through a slow gestation. Fine wines are but one example, which makes me think, why is my morning toast taking so long to cook? Why can't they make a quicker toaster!



Until next time *Luke Pitt*

## MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Mike Belcher from Battalion Bits

Mike Belcher lives just outside Ottawa, Canada. He is 57 years old and has been modelling since he was at university, 37 years ago. He is a mechanical engineer, recently retired from the Canadian Navy. He started modelling armour in 1:35 scale and for many years now has enjoyed 1:48 armour. He likes scratch building and doing major conversions because, he tells me, he ends up with a unique model to add to his collection. He also tells me he is a true dyed-in-the-wool 1:48 fan, and was very happy when Tamiya led the way back into 1:48 scale military models. He went on to say that Bandai kits were okay for their time, and the selection was wonderful, but the accuracy was not consistent and those tracks were not so nice. He first learned about resin casting from articles in old model magazines, and used those techniques when he was doing 1:35 scale armour. However, in 1994 he started offering a range of helicopter conversions under the name of Belcher Bits. Over the years, he has learned a lot about resin casting and materials from trial and error process, and from talking to fellow after-marketters. It is nice to have him with us this month as he is a man who (as the saying goes) "calls it as he sees it"



### THE INTERVIEW

**Luke:** Hi Mike. Good to have you with us. Can you tell our readers what motivates you to do masters and what is the process involved?

**Mike:** First, the best thing about having a small resin business that isn't my sole source of income is that I can select subjects based on what I find interesting or unique, even though they may not be huge sellers. I don't want to make something that no-one else would want but I can do some more unusual subjects. I do monitor the various discussion groups to see what's hot, but I certainly don't select subjects solely on what I read there. My recent kit of the Japanese road roller is a good example. I was looking on the Internet for Japanese subjects, something to go with Tamiya's recent bulldozer, and I ran across one photo of this road roller. It caught my eye, and I remembered reading that Marines used captured Japanese equipment on Guadalcanal to repair bomb damage, so it looked like it could have possibilities for either a US or Japanese diorama. The fact that there was a guy standing next to the machine gave me just enough information to scale the photo for dimensions. As it turned out, I never found any more info on this machine, but it is a unique and interesting subject and it has sold fairly well so far. I like research and learning about various subjects, so often I find an interesting photo or article which pushes me to go digging and see if I can find enough information on the subject to build a model. The Internet is a great tool for this. The thing about

scratch building and making masters for resin kits is that I need to understand how things work in order to make a model of them. It's not enough to have a good set of drawings if I can't see what a certain feature is or its purpose. Maybe that's the engineer in me, but at the end of a project, I find I know way more about a subject than when I started and that makes it very satisfying. Some projects die at an early stage because I can't get the info I need, but it's surprising how much information is out there somewhere.

Once all the material is gathered, I usually do some drawings to make sure everything looks right. It may be sketchy at this stage, but I tidy up these drawings later for use in my instructions. There is a certain amount of mental visualization required before starting any scratch building project. Once you know in your mind how you're going to do it, the actual building process is almost like following a mental set of instructions step by step.

**Luke:** Having cast your masters up yourself in the past, can you explain the process involved here? I understand that making a master for production purposes is a little different than say making a model for yourself.

**Mike:** Making resin masters is different because you have to consider how the parts need to be broken down for assembly. If you were scratch building a model, you would just start with a basic form

and keep adding details to it. This is not good enough for a resin kit because it would be solid and heavy. You break the model down into parts so the detail can be represented and the casting stubs hidden and this requires planning beforehand. You need to consider economics. You wouldn't want to throw away a good casting of a hull if the antenna mount was broken, so maybe it would make more sense to cast the antenna mounts separately.

You also need to know the material properties. Resin is not as strong as injection moulded plastic so spindly suspension parts that might be okay in plastic will need to be reinforced in resin. This is especially true since the resin hull will probably be heavier than a similar sized hull in plastic.

**Luke:** Interesting comments Mike. Do you have a particular field of interest that you like to follow?

**Mike:** I like doing conversions or complete kits rather than providing update sets. I know a lot of people are reluctant to attempt major conversions, so this is an area where I can find a market. I personally like British and Russian subjects but I'll venture into many areas.

**Luke:** I know this can be a tricky question (as people's egos are involved) but who do you admire most in the 1:48 scale modelling community?

**Mike:** I love the painting techniques of Pat Johnson, but there are many talented model makers out there whose works I envy and can never hope to match. Garfield Ingram is not only a great modeller but his establishment of the Track 48 website was a key to kick-starting interest in 1:48 armour.

**Luke:** Okay, here is another tricky one. Who do you admire in terms of master model making and your thoughts on the process of paragonising down larger kits to 1:48?

**Mike:** Well, to be honest it is still a small group. Olivier St Lot of Quarter Kit deserves recognition because of his very extensive line of kits. Tim Perry of Fighting 48th has done some excellent work and we're all anxiously awaiting more. I'd love to see some of the wide selection of kits available in 1:35 brought out in 1:48, although simply reducing the larger kit in size may not be the best approach in many cases. I'm sure some re-design would be required.

**Luke:** I know you're a busy man so just one last question. What are your thoughts on 1:48 and what should we all do to make it the premium scale?

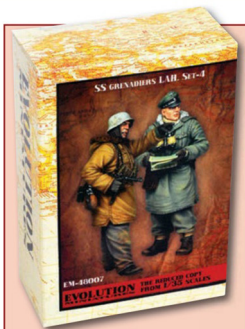
**Mike:** I think 1:48 is an excellent choice for armour models because it offers scope for detail and compatibility with aircraft kits while remaining reasonable in terms of diorama size.

As can be seen on the pages of this and other magazines, 1:48 armour models can be finished to the same high standards as larger kits. There are a number of modellers who are pushing for these smaller models to be moulded to the same level of detail as 1:35 scale kits, and I believe this is a mistake. One of the attractions of 1:48 scale kits is an easy assembly while providing a nicely detailed kit. Frankly, if my next 1:48 kit offered me 400 pieces to assemble the tracks, I'd simply shelve it and reach for something more enjoyable. I want an accurate scale model more than I want a super-detailed kit. I'm afraid I am not in favour of making 1:48th scale the premium scale, although it is my personal preference. The world of scale modelling is big enough that we can all participate in our own favoured scales.

**Luke:** Mike, are there any surprises coming up from you in the future?

**Mike:** Sure, but if I told you now, they wouldn't be a surprise, would they?

**Luke:** Ha Cheeky bugger! Thanks for your time, I admire your skill and the models you have mastered.



## EVOLUTION MINIATURES

1:48 SCALE  
SS GRENADIERS LAH  
ITEM NO. EM-48007

Evolution Miniatures continues to release, in this reviewer's opinion, some of the best 1:48 scale figures available today. The level of detail has to be seen to be believed. The detail on these figures would not be out of place on a 120mm figure set alone a 1:48 scale one.

I will say this up front - if you haven't purchased one of these Evolution 1:48 scale figures yet, go out and do so and experience how good a 1:48 scale figure can be. The skill of Sergey Travinsky (the sculptor) is quite frankly amazing. His technique of reducing his 1:35 figures is basically a game changer, and it is my hope other manufacturers follow suit.

Two figures are presented in this set. They are wearing the rabbit fur 1942 pattern parker issued to troops on the Russian Front in the autumn of 1943. The subtle fabric creases and folds are quite simply amazing. The facial details are noteworthy as they capture both detail and character together, which is rarely seen in any scale. The posing of the figures is also outstanding as it leads to endless applications.

If you only purchase one 1:48 scale German aftermarket figure set this year, this is the one to get. They really are that good! Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Evolution Miniatures for the sample [www.evolution-miniatures.com](http://www.evolution-miniatures.com)  
**Luke Pitt**





## HAULER

### 1:48 SCALE STEYR K2670 LEICHTER PANZERTRIEBWAGEN KIT NO. HLS 48013

This is another interesting full resin kit release from Hauler and a nice addition to their 1:48 scale range. The contents come packed in a very sturdy box with a colour picture of the assembled kit on the box top. Inside we find approximately 20 well cast resin parts and a small sheet of photo etch parts. The instruction sheet sets out all part numbers clearly and consists of approximately four construction steps and a colour scheme guide.

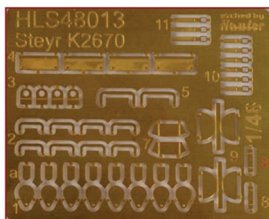
The casting is first rate and the upper hull armoured body of this kit is cast as one very large single piece of resin and is testament to how far the aftermarket producer's have come in producing these products. The cast pour plug will require careful removal as will some of the smaller part such as the tubular antenna to ensure no damage to the details.

A quick test-fit of some parts indicate that all will fit together without any fuss and the only challenge I can see is in construction of the antenna and its mounts which looks to be a fairly fragile part of the kit and the photo etch tool clamps that may require a bit of clever dexterity to get everything aligned and fitted.

This is a well produced kit of an interesting subject and full points must go to Hauler for their efforts for adding even more variety to the 1:48 scale universe. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the review sample  
www.hauler.cz

Ross Ferro



## BLUE-CAT MODELS

### 1:48 SCALE

#### SD.KFZ. 10 DEUTSCHES AFRIKA KORPS KIT NO. 4801 (INJECTION-MOULDED, 94 PARTS)

The Sd.Kfz. 10 1-ton half-track was the standard German light half-track prime mover in World War II, used throughout the war as a towing vehicle for light artillery, anti-tank and AA guns and Nebelwerfers. Its chassis was also the basis for the Sd.Kfz. 250. As such, it is a good subject for a new company on the 1:48 scale scene, Blue-Cat models. The box indicates that this kit was designed by MACO. This release is, in fact, a scaled-up version of MACO's 1:72 Sd.Kfz. 10; the parts breakdown and even the part numbers are exactly the same.

The parts (moulded by MPM) are basically good, with no flash or punch marks in visible areas and only a few sink marks. The finish on the parts is quite smooth, including (unfortunately) the seats and canvas tilt (which can only be built in the folded position). Detail is pretty good overall, if a bit basic, but is a bit clunky in spots (e.g., width indicators, rear Jerry can rack, windshield frame, and mudflaps). Most of the main details are there, but the lack of rifle racks and jack in the passenger compartment is very noticeable. The Jerry cans have only two handles and are lackluster. These will be best replaced with aftermarket items. One nice touch, though, are separate tools. I wish more manufacturers would do that in this scale.

The complex interleaved suspension is done using a similar approach to what AFV Club and Tamiya did with their 1:48 Sd.Kfz. 251 and Sd.Kfz. 250, respectively. The inner rows of road wheels are moulded in a single piece, with separate outer wheels to give better depth. This helps with alignment of the road wheels without sacrificing much detail. The front wheels and road wheels have adequate detail, but they are not as crisp as Tamiya's Sd.Kfz. 250 parts.

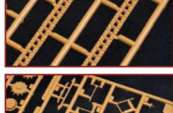
The tracks are quite unusual: single-piece injection-moulded tracks that you have to fold and score to wrap around the sprockets and road wheels. While this isn't an inherently bad concept, the tracks themselves bear only a passing resemblance to the real thing. They are thick and almost devoid of detail, with very poor representations of the track pads and no indentations for the track pins. This is by far the weakest part of this kit. Tamiya's tracks are much better, but unfortunately the Sd.Kfz. 250 used a shortened chassis, so you would have to rob two kits for tracks.

The instructions are clearly illustrated and straightforward, with colour CAD drawings for paint and markings. The decals, which cover three DAK examples, are thin and in-register.

Overall, this is a decent first effort, especially in terms of subject matter, marred mainly by those tracks. It's nice to see a new manufacturer enter the 1:48 field, and there is plenty of scope for aftermarket manufacturers to produce detail parts, conversions and weapons for the Sd.Kfz. 10 to tow. Recommended.

Thanks to Blue-Cat Models for the review sample  
www.blue-cat-models.ch

Scott Taylor



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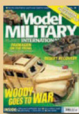
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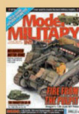
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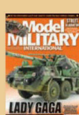
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Jose Brito builds MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine as it would have appeared in Tunisia during 1943.

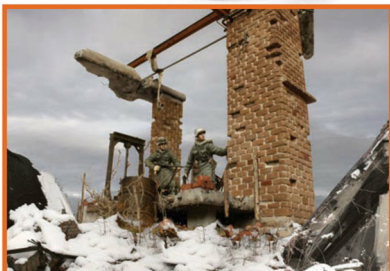
## TWEAKING AN RSOV

Andy King builds and improves the new HobbyBoss 1:35 scale Land Rover RSOV.



## JAPANESE EIGHT-WHEELER

Andrew Judson presents  
Trumpeter's Japanese  
Type 96 Armoured Car.



## KHARKOV 1943

Patrick Dorn creates a dramatic vignette in 1:35 scale.

## ...and much more!

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## TASCA 1:35 TANK RECOVERY VEHICLE M32B1

Tasca's latest in their 1:35 scale M4 Sherman family lands on the Editor's desk – and it is a little bit different.

**T**asca has not quite run out of Sherman gun tank variants yet, but they have taken an interesting direction for their latest release.

The successor to the M3 Lee-based M31 Tank Recovery Vehicle was the M32. The first variant, the M32B1, was built on the early M4A1 cast hull with the small oval hatches. The majority of M32 Tank Recovery Vehicles were converted from existing gun tanks.

Tasca's 1:35 scale M32B1 Tank Recovery Vehicle is correctly based on the early M4A1 cast hull and VVSS suspension.

The kit comprises nearly 820 parts in dark green plastic, 16 parts in clear plastic; four lengths of black vinyl tracks, a modest photo-etched fret, two lengths of string and markings for two vehicles. The whopping parts count includes a large number of pieces not used for the M32. This will be a nice bonus for your Sherman spares box.

Five new sprues are included with this kit. They contain the big main boom, the A-frame, interior detail and unique hull fittings amongst a myriad of new parts. A tow hook and stowed towing bar are supplied for the transmission cover; while the interior is well fitted out with stowage and a big winch. A length of gaudy yellow-green string is supplied to be wrapped around the winch drum, then rigged up to the boom and the hull. External stowage boxes unique to the M32 are also provided. Another nice touch is the inclusion of chocks, which were typically employed when the main boom was raised.

The fixed turret is another all new sub-assembly. This features a high level of detail inside and out, including spare wheels and track links, and a Commander's hatch that may be posed open or closed.

The main boom and the A frame both feature workable hinges and rollers, but the cable rigging means that in practise, most modellers will choose to pose the boom either raised or lowered (stowed).

Tasca's lovely M2 .50 cal machine gun is included, as is an M1 80mm mortar for fitting to the front of the hull.

Four petrol and water cans are also supplied.

Many of the sprues will be familiar to modellers who have previously built any of Tasca's Sherman kits, especially the M4A1s. Optional pressed or lace road wheels are supplied for the mid-production, straight-armed VVSS bogies. As always, foam is supplied to permit movement of the suspension arms after assembly, but this may be replaced with solid plastic if you would prefer to immobilise the bogies.

The flat-pack lower hull, transmission cover, engine deck and exhausts have all been seen before too.

T48 rubber chevron tracks are supplied this time around. As usual, these are broken down into two flexible vinyl lengths per side, but unlike earlier releases they are moulded in black. They seem a bit softer and more flexible than the brown vinyl tracks, but this may be a psychological effect of the colour. Tasca's tracks may be glued together with standard model cement. Not only are they easy to assemble, but they also look great on the vehicle.

Instructions are spread over 40 steps and 16 pages. The illustrations are quite clear and the supplementary written tips will be helpful during assembly.

Markings are supplied for two M32B1s:

- C Coy., 609th TD Battalion, Bastogne, January 1945
- A Coy., 612th TD Battalion, Czechoslovakia, May 1945

Both vehicles are finished in overall Olive Drab.

Tasca's 1:35 scale M32B1 Tank Recovery Vehicle is their most complex and ambitious model to date. Until now, there has never been an accurate M32 model from a mainstream manufacturer. Italeri's M32B1 was actually an odd hybrid based on a late M4A1 hull, so it was not really representative of the typical wartime configuration. Detail was sparse too.

Tasca's M32B1 is anything but sparse. It will look great straight from the box, and will also be an excellent base for superdetailing and diorama projects.

It is very pleasing to see Tasca's slightly lateral lunge toward the M32. I wonder what they'll do next? ■



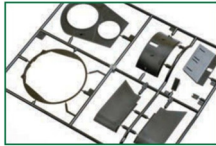
Markings for two vehicles are included.



This is the upper hull of the small oval-hatch M4A1 Sherman.



As always, cast texture is nicely done.



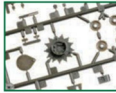
The main parts for the new fixed turret.



The main boom is a single large part.



The A-frame features a workable roller.



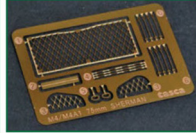
Smaller detail parts are not forgotten either.



T48 rubber chevron tracks are included.



No chance of losing the string!



A modest photo-etched frets supplies mesh guards.

Thanks to Tasca for the sample [www.tasca-modellismo.com](http://www.tasca-modellismo.com)

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

# Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.A 4.Serie/La.S.

Smart Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment

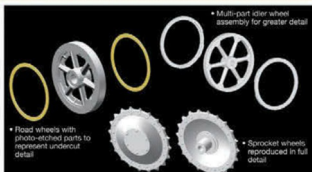
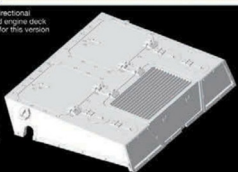
Plastic parts with enhanced detail

Unprecedented value

Ready for instant assembly!

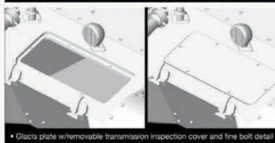


• New multi-directional slide-molded engine deck appropriate for this version



• Flood wheels with photo-etched parts to represent undercut detail

• Multi-part side-wheel assembly for greater detail

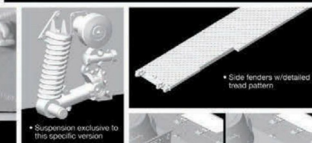


• Glass plate removable transmission inspection cover and fine bolt detail



• Tiny screw details – countersunk screws flush with hull surface

• Well-detailed turret weld seams and screws



• Suspension exclusive to this specific version

• Side fenders with etched tread pattern

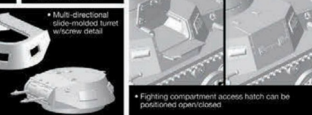


• Turret vision port covers can be assembled open/closed

• Turret interior detail reproduced accurately



• Turret access hatch can be assembled open/closed

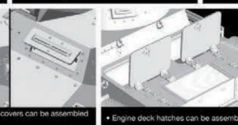


• Fighting compartment access hatch can be assembled open/closed

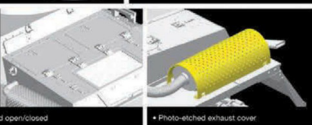


• Antenna assembly can be modeled in upright or folded position

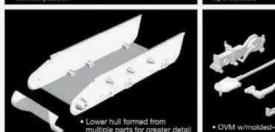
• Driver's vision port covers can be assembled open/closed



• Engine deck hatches can be assembled open/closed



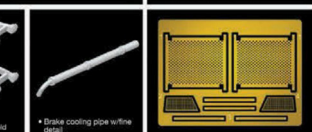
• Photo-etched exhaust cover



• Lower hull formed from multiple parts for greater detail

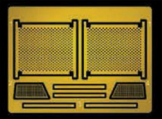


• OVM wheels-on-clasp



• Magic Tracks reproduced by slide mold

• Brake cooling pipe with fine detail



D6451

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# BRINGING DIORAMAS TO LIFE

## 1/35 Scale German Steyr 1500A Kommandeurwagen HQ Staff Set (w/7 Figures) Item 25149



Displaying vehicles and figures together is one way to enjoy scale models, and this new Tamiya 1/35 scale model kit is an easy way to begin exploring the world of diorama creation. This kit enables depiction of a scene where a group of WWII German Army headquarters personnel are about to embark on a visit to frontline units. All of the figures feature realistic



poses and facial expressions while fine details such as rank insignia are also sharply molded. Other model kit sets are available to allow modelers to create scenes of WWII German Army units in the North African desert as well. Incorporate these and other Tamiya figure and vehicle models into your dioramas to take their storytelling potential to a higher level.



GERMAN KÜBELWAGEN TYPE 82 "RAMCKE PARACHUTE BRIGADE" Item 35304



GERMAN STEYR TYPE 1500A/01 & AFRICA CORPS INFANTRY AT REST Item 35305



Vehicle Length: 146mm

4 of the figures are product of ICM, Ukraine.

★Distinctive form of the Steyr 1500A has been accurately reproduced. ★Canvas top, doors, and trunk lid may be assembled in open or closed positions. ★Passenger compartment also features realistic details. ★A total of seven figures in lifelike poses are included. ★Markings for 3 vehicles, including one that was used by General Richard Ruoff, are included.

## Dioramas Straight from the Box

These vehicle and figure sets include the components needed to create scenes which involve Africa Corps units. They are great as simple vignettes on their own as well as pieces of a larger diorama.

German Kübelwagen Type 82 "Ramcke Parachute Brigade"  
Item 35304  
Figures are product of ICM, Ukraine.



German Steyr Type 1500A/01 & Africa Corps Infantry At Rest  
Item 35305



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